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MID & NORTH KENT EDITION

Issue no 459

Misery of hospital's bedsores scandal

NHS trust refutes claims as campaigners demand action

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HEALTH campaigners have demanded a zero tolerance policy on bedsores after a Kent health trust was exposed as having one of the worst problems in Britain.

Findings by standards watchdog Dr Foster for the Health Service Journal named and shamed the hospitals with the highest pressure sore rates, with Medway NHS Foundation Trust placed second on the list.

Some 141 bedsores were recorded between February, 2010, and January, 2011 – more than two a week.

Health bosses defended the trust, saying some patients may have already had sores when they arrived at hospital.

Nationally, the problem affects 412,000 NHS patients a year, and figures showed they were responsible for killing 4,708 people between 2003 and 2008 – almost as many fatal cases as the superbug MRSA.

Health charity Action Against Medical Accidents (AAMA) has lobbied the Government and called for a zero-tolerance policy as it believes pressure sores, which are caused when patients are not regularly moved or given special mattresses, are preventable.

Chief executive Peter Walsh said: "Yes, it's labour intensive, but it's basic nursing which should be a priority.

"Pressure sores not only cause human misery, but cost

Continued on page 2

MY PHONE WAS HACKED SAYS VICTIM OF JULY 7 BOMBINGS

ANGER: Tube bomb survivor threatens legal action as News of the World closes **SEE STORY INSIDE**

ANIMAL EXPORTS

'We can't stop animal trade'

TOWN hall officials say they are powerless to stop live animal exports through the Port of Ramsgate.

They have taken expert legal advice and say because the trade to Europe is lawful, their hands are tied.

Campaigners are planning a protest march. **PAGE 2**

POLITICS

KCC election payment row

FORMER Kent County Council chief executive Peter Gilroy has said he is prepared to pay back £18,000 he was paid for overseeing an election.

KCC officials now say the payment "was not permitted in law", and one councillor has said the police should look at the incident. **PAGE 3**

SPORT

Sandwich set to host Open

THE world's best golfers will descend on the county in the next few days as Royal St George's prepares to stage The Open Championship.

Rory McIlroy will be among the favourites when the tournament begins on Thursday, with 180,000 fans expected during the week. **PAGE 84**

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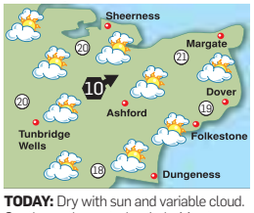

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TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	06.50	5.8	19.21	5.9
Margate	07.51	4.2	20.09	4.3
St Mary's	00.11	4.8	12.52	4.7

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 22C	Min 10C
Tuesday	Max 21C	Min 11C
Wednesday	Max 20C	Min 10C
Thursday	Max 21C	Min 11C
Friday	Max 21C	Min 12C
Saturday	Max 20C	Min 12C

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Hospitals should know when patient comes in with bedsores

Continued from front page

the NHS a huge amount every year. They are extremely painful; one of the most common outcomes is infection which can cause blood poisoning and in worst cases, death."

Data revealed that in the worst cases rates were four times higher than the national average.

But a spokeswoman for Medway NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Medway Maritime Hospital, criticised the Dr Foster analysis, claiming it provided no distinction between pressure sores acquired while patients were in the hospital and those which occurred in the community before the person was admitted.

"There appears to be some discrepancies in the coding process which has resulted in the Trust's performance in pressure ulcer management being negatively viewed," she said.

"Following an investigation where all the patients' notes were reviewed, we found anomalies which led us to believe the number of patients with pressure sores is lower than that in the Dr Foster report."

The Trust is now carrying out a further investigation with Dr Foster.

The spokeswoman added: "Over the last year, a lot of work has taken place to minimise the risk of patients getting sores and we have successfully halved them, which shows the work we're doing is really having a positive impact on patient care."

But AAMA's Mr Walsh said the hospital should know when a patient comes in with a bedsore.

"A lot of trusts are defending the problem saying that patients came in with pressure sores, but they should be assessing them when they come in – they should know about them," he said.

"In America bedsores have been made a 'never event' and that is what should happen here. They should never be allowed to happen – they are preventable."

Most people affected by bedsores are elderly or long-term patients unable to move easily.

Mr Welsh said with government cuts the problem could get worse if the issue is not made a top priority.

Chief executive of the Patients Association, Katherine Murphy, agreed that bedsores are an "unacceptable widespread problem".

"As well as causing a great deal of pain and distress to patients, they cost the NHS at least £4 billion a year," she said.

"At a time when the NHS is being asked to make £20bn of savings, it cannot afford to lose so much money on treating this entirely preventable problem.

"There needs to be mandatory monitoring of pressure ulcers so standards can be driven up, making sure poor performers are held to account."

In the list of shamed Trusts Medway came second behind Warrington and Halton Hospitals Trust.

■ **See yourmedway.co.uk for all the latest news and sports headlines.**

ANIMAL EXPORTS

Town hall says its hands are tied over 'legal' animal export trade through port

By Mathew Beech
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THERE is no legal way of stopping the live animal exports from the Port of Ramsgate, according to Thanet District Council (TDC).

The statement comes after the town hall sought legal advice on whether it could prevent the trade.

The council opposes the exports of sheep and calves going through the port, which it owns and runs, but due to legislation, it has no standing to prevent them.

The advice received states that Ramsgate is an open port under national law and the council cannot rely on its local bye-laws to contradict national or EU legislation, which governs free trade.

TDC has also been told it is "highly unlikely" the trade can be refused on the grounds that animals are "sentient beings" rather than goods, as "neither the UK government nor the EU has legislated to prevent the trade".

The report concludes that, if the council banned live animal exports from Ramsgate, it "would be at risk of an application for judicial review and possibly at risk in relation to a claim in damages if losses are suffered".

This would put TDC at risk of suffering a similar fate to Dover Harbour Board, which paid substantial undisclosed damages to live animal exporters after unsuccessfully attempting to block the trade in the 1990s.

BAA-RMY: The port at Ramsgate is owned and run by Thanet council, but it can do nothing to stop animal exports going through port

Tory council leader Cllr Bob Bayford said: "We are very aware of people's feelings on this highly emotive issue, and that many would prefer not to see the export of animals from Ramsgate.

"The council strongly resisted using the port for this trade on moral grounds, but we are governed by the law. As this legal advice shows, we don't have the support of the law to prevent this trade.

"Where people have tried before to prevent this trade elsewhere, it's ended up costing them dearly, with the organisations left facing huge claims for damages.

"I'm sure that some people would encourage us to take that risk, but we're responsible for public money. We can't risk what is potentially hundreds of thousands of pounds of council taxpayers' money, without proper supporting legal advice and we simply don't have that.

"We have consistently urged those opposed to this trade to take the issue up at a national or European level, rather than protest at the port, as the council has no control over this. The advice we've now been given backs that up."

Labour group leader Cllr Clive Hart said: "If their opinion is factual, then we will step it up to the next level and lobby central government and the EU. It is crazy we have no control over the port that we own and ratepayers fund."

The exports began in May this year and so far four shipments have gone through the port.

The animals have been destined for Europe and have crossed the English Channel on a former Soviet tank carrier, the Joline, which is presently owned by Barco de Vapor BV of Amsterdam.

The next major protest planned against the animal exports is scheduled for August 13, where a march is planned through the town.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Calls for police probe as ex-KCC chief offers to pay back poll cash

By Steve Knight
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FORMER Kent County Council chief executive Peter Gilroy says he will "do the right thing" after admitting giving himself a controversial £18,350 payment for overseeing council elections.

Mr Gilroy, who left the authority last year, authorised the payment for running the 2009 county council elections despite already earning a salary of more than £210,000.

It has now been revealed in a KCC report that the payment was "not permitted in law", prompting calls for a police investigation to be launched and the money recovered.

But Mr Gilroy told KoS it was actually he who commissioned the report because he felt uneasy about authorising the payment at the time.

He said: "I'm now in discussion with KCC and together we will make the right decision. This was an open, transparent process in which I sought advice at the time and followed previous practice.

"If something has gone wrong then I will do whatever is appropriate. If they say that]paying the money back] is the only way to rectify this then I will do the right thing.

"If there was something to hide then I would never have sought advice in the first place."

Details of the payment were revealed in a report to members of the council's electoral and boundary review committee.

Lib Dem Cllr Tim Prater said the group was told such controversial payments had been happening for many years under various chief executives, but that there were no plans to claim the money back.

"If this had happened at any other organisation then it would be a matter for the auditors and the police," he added.

TRANSPARENT: Peter Gilroy says he arranged for the investigation into his payment of £18,350

"Peter Gilroy was the highest paid chief executive in the country and for him to not know [about the law] strikes me as startling. He should have known better and shouldn't have been allowed to get away with it.

"I think if anyone else wrote themselves a cheque for £18,350 their employer would probably go to the police, and I think they should be considering if there is a case to answer."

Responding to Cllr Prater's criticism, Mr Gilroy said it was "silly" to suggest the situation was a criminal matter.

He added: "This was not fraudulent. It was an open issue that was discussed with everyone at the time, so it's not like the MPs' expenses scandal. This was a one-off issue."

The report to the KCC committee revealed that while returning officers in Parliamentary elections may levy charges for their services, returning officers in local elections may only recover "expenses properly incurred".

It has now been agreed that members will clarify the way such issues are managed and lay out a payment structure that will be reviewed on an annual basis.

A KCC spokesman said: "Members wanted to clarify the way county council elections and the associated costs involved are calculated and approved.

"This is in line with what is being done nationally to standardise the process and as part of the reorganisation of the council.

"It is fair and reasonable for the county returning officer and the deputy returning officers and their staff in the district and borough councils to be reimbursed for the work they do in supporting the county council election process every four years – and appropriate for any payments for this work to be made on a standardised basis and approved at member level within KCC."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Honour for Firmin

BAGPUSS co-creator Peter Firmin has been awarded the Freedom of the City of Canterbury.

The animator received the honour at a ceremony held in the Guildhall on Wednesday.

A council spokesman said the freedom was given "in recognition of his outstanding work in animation, creating a number of much-loved children's television characters".

Firmin, and Smallfilms business partner Oliver Postgate, created characters including Bagpuss in a barn in Blean, near Canterbury.

Woman's murder trial

JULIE Barron, 44, who lives in a motorhome, is accused of killing 43-year-old John McDaid at the park and ride car park in New Dover Road, Canterbury, between June 27-28.

She was arrested and interviewed by police on Wednesday following the results of a post-mortem examination two days earlier. Barron appeared before Dover magistrates on Thursday.

Is your village best?

THE Kent Village of the Year 2011 Competition is now open.

To earn the coveted title currently held by Matfield in Tunbridge, villages from across the county have to submit up to five exemplary community activities they feel would earn them the title.

Entry forms are available online from www.ruralkent.org.uk, 01303 813790 or email info@ruralkent.org.uk.

SPORT

Fifa must reform before we bid for World Cup again, urges MP

ENGLAND should not bid to host another World Cup until the FA is confident Fifa is free from corruption, says an influential backbench MP.

Tory Folkestone and Hythe representative Damian Collins is a member of the culture, media and sport committee which this week published a report into the disastrous attempts to host football's biggest tournament in 2018.

Despite an impressive campaign that received the backing of Prime Minister David Cameron and Prince William, England's bid received just two votes from Fifa's executive committe and finished bottom of the pile as Russia won the right to host the competition.

Fifa has been dogged by accusations of serious corruption in recent months, but Mr Collins said he was not convinced football's world governing body was about to reform.

HIGH PRICE: England's failed 2018 bid disappointed fans

"The chances are that there will not be another World Cup in Europe until 2026 or 2030," he said. "I've raised the issue with sports minister Hugh Robertson and said England should not go for it again until Fifa reforms its bidding process.

"For a start there need to be open rules around the types of gifts you can offer, which are much more uncertain than they are with the Olympics.

"There are also a number of other corruption issues which I'm not convinced Fifa has got to grips with.

"To bid again we need to be confident that Fifa can reform because the 2018 bid cost a lot of money and I don't want us to have go through that again if we don't stand a realistic chance of success."

Mr Collins added that the FA also failed to learn from the unsuccessful attempts to stage the 2006 World Cup, which was instead awarded to Germany.

He said the 2018 bid suffered from similar problems over leadership, structure and arguments with the Premier League.

"It would be very easy for us to say England could never have won the bid, and that may be so, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't have learned lessons from previous attempts," he said.

■ **Read the latest news and sport at yourshepway.co.uk.**

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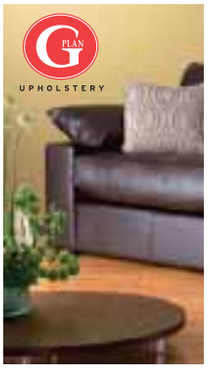

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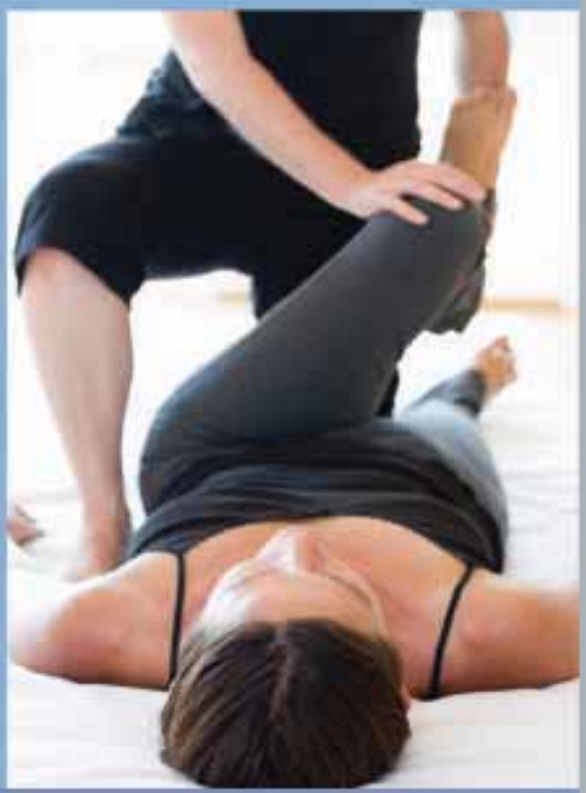

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POLICING

Our police top the sackings list for data protection breaches

By Chris Murphy and Steve Knight
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT Police has Britain's worst record for the number of officers and civilians sacked for illegally using confidential information.

According to a report by the privacy campaign group Big Brother Watch, the county force sacked 10 workers between 2007 and 2010 and disciplined 28 for various breaches of the Data Protection Act.

These included a PC who used the database to run checks on a suspect for an offence involving his father, and another member of staff who left confidential papers on a train.

Big Brother Watch director Dan Hamilton said: "Ten job terminations in three years might seem a low number but nationally speaking Kent Police are the worst offenders so they shouldn't be taking the issue lightly.

"It's astonishing to think that 904 police officers and support staff across England have faced disciplinary action for abusing their access to confidential systems, 243 have received criminal convictions and 98 have lost their jobs.

"Our investigation shows that not only have police employees [nationally] been found to have run background records checks on friends and possible partners, but some have been convicted for passing sensitive information to criminal gangs and drug dealers. This is at best hugely intrusive and, at worse, downright dangerous.

"Police forces must adopt a zero tolerance approach to this kind of behaviour. Those found guilty of abusing their position should be sacked on the spot."

BREACH OF SECURITY: Police have been caught running record checks on partners, neighbours and the friends of their children

The areas with the largest number of officers and police staff who had their employment terminated for data protection breaches since 2007 were Kent with 10 – five officers and five civilians – followed by Merseyside and West Midlands with seven each.

Northumbria fired six while Derbyshire and Humberside each sacked five.

Big Brother Watch said the areas with the largest number of officers and staff subjected to internal disciplinary procedures were Merseyside (208), West Midlands (83), Humberside (62), South Yorkshire (42), and Northumbria (39).

It is understood that many of the Kent breaches were down to members of staff running domestic checks on their partners, neighbours or children's friends.

Det Supt Nora Chandler, of Kent Police's professional standards department, said: "Kent Police expects its officers and employees to maintain the highest level of professionalism and honesty at all times.

"When breaches relating to the security of data are detected they are treated seriously and fully investigated.

"The force fully understands the importance of maintaining the integrity of its databases and all staff are given full and thorough training on this subject.

"In short, we simply will not tolerate people accessing our systems for anything other than a lawful policing purpose. Any member of staff who is found to do this will face immediate and appropriate action."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man raped in woodland

POLICE are searching for a rapist after a 23-year-old man was attacked.

The victim contacted police at 4.45pm on Tuesday and said he had been raped by an acquaintance in the woods by Forrester Close and Brymore Road in Northgate, Canterbury.

The rapist is a white man, 6ft, 30-35, with short dark hair and a Liverpool accent. He wore dark jeans, dark trainers and a light coloured top. He may be called Dave.

Police are keen to hear from witnesses.

Investigators are keen to reassure the public that this is not being treated as a stranger rape and there have not been any similar incidents reported in the area.

Fire victims' memorial

A MEMORIAL to mark the location of a public fire display that went tragically wrong will be unveiled at Gillingham Park on Sunday.

Nine adults and six children burned to death during the Gillingham Park Fete in July, 1929.

The service will start at 11.30am at the Park Avenue entrance to Gillingham Park.

Hospital food 'good'

KENT'S 12 community hospitals all serve high quality meals to patients, a study has found.

The hospitals, including Herne Bay's Queen Victoria Memorial, Sheppey Community and Faversham Cottage, were rated either 'good' or 'excellent' after Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) inspections.

GOLF

Town's warm welcome for thousands of Open golf fans

IN JUST days picturesque Sandwich will be buzzing with people as The Open Championship comes to town.

Restaurant, pub and hotel owners are waiting in anticipation for the influx of tourists to arrive; traffic plans are in place for the expected congestion; and golf fans are looking forward to watching their sporting heroes at the lavish Royal St George's course.

But what of the residents of sleepy Sandwich? One minute it is a quiet, historical town with a population of around 4,500; the next a place teeming with thousands more, winding their way down cobbled streets and narrow side roads.

The Open is expected to draw in a crowd of around 200,000 and a large portion of the visitors will be staying in the immediate area.

But Sandwich Mayor Cllr Jeremy Watts is unfazed. "The town is very excited and looking forward to it," he said.

"I'm sure people who come for

STAR: Roryl McIlroy is one to watch at Royal St George's

The Open come back afterwards for another visit, and it brings in other people that have seen it on television – you wouldn't be able to buy that kind of publicity.

"The town is very busy in the evenings. The problem during daytime is that the golf authorities don't allow passes out in the day so spectators have to stay on the course.

"I suppose it's so they spend their money there."

Preparations have been under way to ensure the area can cope – with high-speed train services extended to Sandwich, a bus service from the train station to the course, extra car parking facilities, and measures to ensure residents do not face unnecessary disruption.

So with the county ready and anticipating a massive £80 million boost to the economy, the pressure of The Open now falls on the golfers.

Despite the announcement earlier this week that Tiger Woods would not be competing due to injury, the recent successes of British golfers such as Rory McIlroy, Luke Donald and Lee Westwood are expected to boost visitor numbers.

Cllr Watts said well-known golfers can often be seen in town's restaurants during the Open. "It's an exciting time for residents and visitors," he said.

The Open runs from July 14-17, but visitors are expected to start arriving from Monday.

■ **See golfforkent.co.uk for all the latest Open news.**

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Pony dies after attack

THE RSPCA has launched an investigation into an attack on a young Shetland pony which was found with its ear cuts off and slash wounds.

An inspector was called to Valley Drive in Gravesend to help the straying pony and it was taken to a vet and put to sleep.

RSPCA Inspector Alana Chapman said: "We would like to know exactly what happened."

■ **Anyone with information can call the RSPCA on 0300 1234999.**

Care quality concerns

NEW research by the University of Kent has found elderly patients receive varying standards of dignified care on NHS hospital wards.

The Dignity in Practice study, led by Cardiff University, found poorly designed and confusing wards in hospitals; problems with boredom; demoralised staff ill-equipped to care for the elderly; and organisational problems causing patients to be frequently moved around within the system.

Give incinerator views

PEOPLE living near a planned waste-to-energy incinerator are being invited to have their say on the environmental impact of the plant.

A drop-in session is being held by the Environment Agency as part of a consultation into the proposed plant at Kemsley Paper Mill, near Sittingbourne. The plant has been granted permission but needs an Environment Agency permit.

The session is being held from 2pm-8pm on Thursday, July 14, at Kemsley Village Hall.

PHONE HACKING

I will sue News of the World if they hacked my phone, says 7/7 victim

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A SURVIVOR of the London bombings has threatened to sue News International over the phone hacking scandal.

Beverli Rhodes, who had been travelling to work on the tube blown up near Kings Cross on July 7, 2005, told KoS on the sixth anniversary of the attacks on Thursday, that she feared she had been hacked and had commissioned a lawyer to look into her case.

Her claims on Thursday came as News International chairman James Murdoch announced this Sunday's edition of the News of the World would be the last after an exodus by advertisers.

No advertisements will run and instead the space will be donated to charities, with proceeds from the last edition going to good causes.

The Kennington resident also revealed a former employee at the shamed newspaper had admitted to her that phone calls between Ms Rhodes and reporters had been taped.

"I will certainly be suing if I find that they have hacked," she said.

The 50-year-old, who suffered severe injuries to her chest, leg and face as well as post-traumatic stress disorder, said she was currently away from home and had not been able to check whether she had been contacted by police.

This week it emerged that relatives of victims of the bombings had been contacted by Scotland Yard warning them that messages on their mobile phones may have been intercepted by Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator employed by the News of the World, in the days following the attacks.

It followed the shocking revelation that Mulcaire had hacked into voicemail messages of murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler, which prompted police to turn their attention to other high-profile cases such as the Soham murders of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells, where it was alleged he had targeted Jessica's father.

Relationships between police and journalists also came under the spotlight after emails emerged of alleged payments to officers by the paper.

In Kent, bosses at Sankey's pub and restaurant in Tunbridge Wells cancelled subscriptions to all News International's newspapers, worth £2,000 per year, and Whitstable's Labour Party planned protests outside newsagents to discourage the purchase of News of the World.

Former News of the World journalist and features executive, Paul McMullan, who is now landlord of the Castle Inn pub in Dover, said phone hacking Milly Dowler's phone was a "step too far".

"Phone hacking isn't wrong in every case and it has got great results, for example, when Lord Prescott was exposed as having an affair and lying and cheating on his wife, or the expenses fiddling," he said.

"But it was allowed to get out of control. This is a matter of decency and this is an appalling case. It went too far, no-one stopped it.

"Rebekah Brooks, my editor at the time, must resign. She gave me my job in 1995 and I was proud to say I was a News of the World reporter. I was then promoted to an executive.

"For the first time I feel ashamed to have worked there. As a father-of-two myself I don't want to even imagine what it must have been like for Milly Dowler's parents.

"It also looks like messages deleted from the phone weren't just silly ones from her friends to clear space but also other messages so the newspaper could get exclusives."

Professor of journalism at the University of Kent, Tim Luckhurst, who is former editor and deputy editor of The Scotsman, called for a public inquiry into the matter.

He said: "There needs to be a public inquiry held under the Inquiries Act 2005 with a judge, which means witnesses can be summoned and required to answer questions under oath."

HACK FEARS: Beverli Rhodes says she will take legal action if she finds out her mobile phone was hacked by News of the World reporters

Prof Luckhurst said other titles were also involved in the shamed practices.

"It's not just the News of the World and by no means just News International. Relationships between newspapers and police and politicians must be looked at.

"Politicians seem to take credit for all this coming out, but this was exposed because another newspaper – The Guardian – published it. It was journalists uncovering the wrongdoing."

He said actions of the News of the World in the Milly Dowler case were "beneath contempt".

"I'm surprised Rebekah Brooks is still chief executive of News International."

He added that the press should be self-regulated, but there needed to be better training for journalists.

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HEALTH CARE

Pembury popularity forces early reduction in maternity services

A DELIVERY room at Maidstone maternity unit has been closed as health bosses struggle to cope with the number of women wanting to give birth at Pembury.

Consultant-led maternity services at the county town hospital are set to close fully in September, when the department will be centralised in the new state-of-the-art Tunbridge Wells Hospital (TWH).

It comes after a hard-fought battle to keep the services at Maidstone, led by doctors, politicians and patients who raised concerns over the safety of women and new-born babies if the move went ahead.

Maidstone will be left with a midwifery-led birthing centre, but campaigners fear the hospital is being downgraded.

Now, a large increase in the number of births predicted for July at the new Pembury has seen a fall in women wanting to have babies at Maidstone.

Head of midwifery at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Gillian Duffey said: "The predicted number of births split between the two sites in June was fairly balanced – 261 at TWH against 231 at Maidstone – about the usual balance. But the predicted numbers for July show a marked shift in preference – 278 for TWH against 171 for Maidstone. That's a 62-38 per cent split.

"Most of the women preferentially choosing TWH come from midway between the two sites – places like West Malling and Paddock Wood."

AIR TRAVEL

Biggin Hill's call for extended 2012 hours must be a 'one-off'

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

ORPINGTON MP Jo Johnson has voiced concerns that a temporary extension of Biggin Hill airport's flight limit could set a precedent for future expansion.

Airport bosses have applied to Bromley Council for an extension in operating hours during next year's Olympics and Paralympics, and residents are being asked to contribute to a public consultation which ends on July 29.

But Mr Johnson says any such arrangement should be a one-off agreement. His older brother, London Mayor Boris Johnson, wants to build an airport in the Thames Estuary off the Kent coast.

"We don't want to set a precedent that enables the airport to have permanently extended hours of operation and an increased number of flights," said the MP.

"My concern is that while wanting to support this national event, we don't want in the process to create the conditions for Biggin Hill to turn into a mini or maxi Luton or Stansted.

"My bottom line is the existing lease offers Biggin Hill plenty of scope to take full advantage of the commercial opportunities offered by the 2012 Olympics.

Picture: FOMA

FLIGHT PATH: Jo Johnson, MP for Orpington, is concerned over Biggin Hill's request

"I haven't seen the evidence that suggests extra flights are needed. I can't speak for everyone, but a very clear majority of my constituents are very concerned about these plans."

During the Olympic period Biggin Hill wants to extend its operating hours by two hours a day, from 6.30am until 10pm on weekdays.

It also wants to run flights between 8am and 10pm on weekends and bank holidays – an increase of three hours.

Managing director Jenny Munro said: "If guests use other airports and miss the experience of Biggin with its full range of services and its proximity to London, there is a risk that any resulting investment would go elsewhere.

"As one of Bromley's largest employment bases, surely the more visitors and potential investors we attract to the area, the better."

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EXHIBITION

Surfers rode in on a wave of enthusiasm

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FORTY-five years ago a pioneering group of surfers took to the waves around the east Kent coast, kick-starting an unlikely surf culture which is still ingrained today.

Despite the location – with smaller and less consistent waves than its south-west coast rivals Devon and Cornwall – the dedication and enthusiasm of the trailblazers sparked the beginning of an admired surf scene with its own club, and a company, Island Surfboards, creating cutting-edge boards.

Although the unpredictability of the waves drove some into the arms of the South West or further afield to places such as Australia and New Zealand, the Thanet and east Kent coastline has continued to provide a place for locals to surf over the past five decades.

The surfing legacy created by the revolutionary group in the 1960s is now to be unearthed in an exhibition at the Old Lookout Gallery in Broadstairs, revealing the history and roots of the sport.

Created by veteran surfer Paul Knowles, who lives in Wickhambreaux and works in Margate, the display, which runs from July 15-20, will show the five decades of surfing in east Kent with photographs, vintage and classic boards, and memorabilia, including the first board ever used at popular surf spot Joss Bay, in Broadstairs, in 1967.

There will also be contributions from the British Surfing Museum and surfers from the 1960s who moved to all corners of the globe are expected to reunite at the exhibition.

Mr Knowles, who has been surfing for 45 years and ran Island Surfboards, said the sport became popular in the 1960s through the influence of music such as The Beach Boys.

But for the Kent group the interest was stirred when a local man brought a surfboard back with him from his travels.

"He brought it back on a boat to the UK and it went from there," said Mr Knowles.

"Surfing didn't have the coverage it has now, but it blossomed here.

"People started going to Devon and Cornwall to find good surf, but those who lived in the area, who had to stay here for work, could surf here, although it was a bit more unpredictable.

Pictures: PAUL KNOWLES

BOARD MEETINGS: (Top left) A surfer catches a wave in Folkestone, (above) posing for a shot on the beach at Joss Bay in Broadstairs and (below) Tony Ward pictured on a Volkswagen Beetle

"But because the waves are less consistent here I think it makes it more special. When you have a good day surfing you know it might not be the same the next day.

"Surfing became popular here in the late 60s, People started coming down from London if the weather conditions were right and they would surf at Joss Bay and Viking Bay."

Some of the local surfers took part in competitions at the UK's surfing hot spots, including Kent's own beaches.

The exhibition will show the changes in surfboards and culture through the years.

"Surfing definitely has a culture. Back in the 1960s surfers could be identified by a surfing T-shirt, but these days lots of people wear these brands," said Mr Knowles.

Asked whether the myths of territorial surfers guarding their bays from others were true, the 63-year-old admitted it did happen.

"I suppose some of them will surf in packs and if the waves are good they will guard it, but this isn't something I have seen much of," he said.

"The sea is free and so everyone should be able to use it, but there is an etiquette when surfing, for example, making sure you don't get in someone's way."

He added: "I would like the exhibition to become mobile. Margate is expanding with art and culture and surfing should be a part of this as it has its own culture and is an art."

For information go to www.thebigchill.co.uk.

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DROPPING IN: Bruce Clements rides the crest of a wave at a secret spot in east Kent, and (left) one of the first female surfers at Joss Bay in Broadstairs, both taken in 1970

FESTIVAL REVIEW

Purple reigns as Prince rocks Hop Farm

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FOR AN event which has enjoyed some big name headliners during its short history, there were more than a few rumours that the Hop Farm Festival was struggling to fully establish itself on a packed music calendar.

There were mutterings about the line-up, mumblings about the ticket prices, and questions over just how it filled the niche it had carved out for itself of old school rock which straddled the generations.

Those doubts were firmly banished though, over three glorious days last weekend which saw it gather universal praise and remarkable coverage across the national press.

Organiser Vince Power said: "I can't fault any of the acts that played, they all gave us unbelievable sets and created some wonderful memories.

"I really believe that we created an historic event that will go down in festival history as being one of the all time, most memorable festivals.

"Last year we had felt that the festival was on the map, but this year has proved this 100 per cent, we're very happy that we now rival any festival in the UK. In future the Hop Farm will remain a non-branded, non-sponsored festival."

So the Hop Farm Festival is here to stay – and on the evidence of its 2011 outing, we should all be very thankful.

Much can be credited to Sunday night's headliner Prince. A master of his craft, he picked up the crowd from the second he walked on and kept them firmly in the palm of his hand, with hit after hit until he exited the stage with just seconds to spare before the 11pm curfew.

ROCK ROYALTY: Prince (left) closed the show at this year's Hop Farm Festival with a stunning set after the likes of The Eagles (above), Morrissey (above right) and Iggy Pop (right) had entertained festival goers during the weekend

Bryan Ferry and The Eagles had got things under way with a smooth display on Friday night.

The Saturday double-header of Iggy & The Stooges and Morrissey was a wonder to behold. Having followed in the footsteps of a Lou Reed set which, if being kind, was only ever going to keep his hardcore fan base happy, Iggy Pop reaffirmed his a lust for life with a scintillating performance of swagger and good humour which defied his age.

All of which left the stage clear for Morrissey. He served up a strict diet of solo smashes and classics from The Smiths which proved the perfect finale to a hot Saturday bill. On any other weekend he would have stolen the headlines.

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KENT Police Authority will be visiting shopping centres to ask people how policing can be improved.

Officials want more residents satisfied with the service they receive.

Officers and authority members will be at the County Show, Maidstone, next weekend. They will then visit Asda in Folkestone on July 22, Bluewater on July 27, Sainsbury's in Tonbridge on August 5, and Chatham's Pentagon on August 12.

Visit www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk for more roadshow dates.

KENT POLICE

'We must come to terms with cuts' orders new police chief

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE new chief executive of the Kent Police Authority says it is time to accept the spending cuts and focus on how to cope with them.

Graham Hooper joins the KPA at a time when the county force must make £50 million of savings over the next four years, but the former Met Police officer says he is encouraged by the contingency plans already in place.

He also said he understood why morale among Kent officers was low, but that he was confident crime rates would continue to fall despite the expected loss of 1,500 staff.

"I think we've got to the point now where we have to accept the reality of the situation we are in," said Mr Hooper.

"We could have an endless debate about the fairness of the cuts but the real point here is that we are all going through a difficult period of budget reductions which are going to impact on pretty much every police force in the country, as well as other parts of the public sector.

"We're past the point of negotiations so we just have to accept the cuts, roll our sleeves up and deal with them as best as we can.

CONFIDENT: Graham Hooper says Kent Police are well placed to deal with cuts

"From what I've seen we're in quite a good position to cope with them, and could come out in a stronger position than we are already in.

"The chief constable's restructure plans are sound and have already been endorsed by the authority, so it's just a case of pushing ahead and getting on with things."

Last week the chairman of the Kent Police Federation, Ian Pointon, said morale among officers was "below the floor" as a result of the spending cuts.

About 87 per cent of 1,500 bobbies quizzed in a federation survey felt crime would rise and service to the public would fall, and that people would want to leave the force as a result.

Mr Hooper, who lives in Chislehurst, Bromley, said he understood officers' anguish.

But he added: "It's worth pointing out that the chief constable has committed to putting more officers on front line duty and changing some of the response arrangements, which I think officers would welcome.

"Change is always difficult for people to accept, but if it's carefully and sensibly managed then I can see us coming out the other end in a strong position."

Mr Hooper has more than 30 years' experience in policing and has also worked in policy roles for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, the Home Office, and the National Policing Improvement Agency.

Since his retirement in February last year he has worked as a senior lecturer in criminology at the University of West London.

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KENT DOWNS ORCHID

Your free guide to exploring the beauty of the Kent Downs out now

THE latest issue of the Kent Downs Orchid newspaper is out now and is full of ideas, walks and events to help you to enjoy the spectacular landscape of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty this summer.

Find out about new opportunities for bringing back positive woodland management, projects to restore rivers and valuable chalk downland, and celebrate some of the great produce from the Downs.

Early summer is the best time to enjoy the wild flowers of the Kent Downs and in particular the extraordinary orchids that the area is renowned for, see the map in the Kent Downs Orchid for ideas of places to visit or go to **www.kent-downs.org.uk**, where there is also more information about about the Kent Downs Orchid newspaper.

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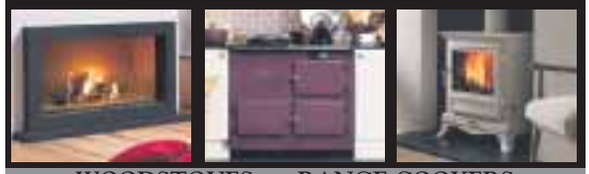
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AIRPORT

PUBLIC INQUIRY: A former Government planning inspector spoke out against plans to expand Lydd Airport, and members of the public also voiced discontent at this week's hearing

Former planning chief says airport expansion breaks council policies

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A FORMER Government planning expert has issued a plea to the inspector at the Lydd Airport inquiry to recommend refusal of the controversial plans.

Retired Anthony Bingham, who was principle inspector for the Planning Inspectorate for 10 years during his 50-year career, argued that refusal should be recommended to the secretary of state.

"In the whole of my career I have never encountered proposals that are so contrary to so many planning policies," he said. "I urge the inspector to come to the same conclusion."

During the public inquiry this week, Mr Bingham accused Shepway District Council of approving plans which failed to satisfy its own planning policies.

He asked the inspector examining the application to look at Manston airport in Thanet for extra capacity instead.

The inquiry, which has been running for five months and will continue through to September, is looking at plans by airport owners to expand the runway by more than 300 metres and build a new terminal capable of handling up to 500,000 passengers a year.

Shepway council voted in favour of the £25 million plans following a seven-hour meeting in March last year, despite overwhelming opposition.

Some 14,000 protest letters were sent to the secretary of state and three months later the Government announced a public inquiry would be held in 2011, with bosses at Lydd Airport admitting they were "deeply disappointed".

Campaigners from Lydd Airport Action Group (LAAG), which has 3,000 members, argued that fragile habitats and wildlife would be damaged by the expansion, and noise pollution and traffic would be detrimental to residents' lives.

A nuclear expert also warned of the dangers of expanding an airport so close to Dungeness power station.

But business leaders and Folkestone and Hythe Tory MP Damian Collins, said the development would be beneficial to the future of Shepway.

On Tuesday, members of the public were given the opportunity to speak for the first time in the inquiry and despite the overwhelming majority being against the plans, some were in favour.

Maureen Tomison, who stood in the May elections for the Folkestone East ward for Labour, said jobs and regeneration were needed in Romney Marsh and Lydd which could be created through the airport and subsequent developments of hotels and shopping for those using Lydd.

Louise Barton, from LAAG, said Lydd Airport's figure of 600 direct jobs per million passengers was "too optimistic" and the figure was more likely to be between 250 and 450.

But MP Mr Collins said: "Shepway as a whole, and Romney Marsh in particular, badly needs to attract investment and jobs.

"Romney Marsh is already a deprived area, with little opportunity for employment.

"At a time when the future of the power station at Dungeness is uncertain, we cannot afford to throw away the opportunity that investment in the airport's development represents."

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News

ART

After The Great Wall of Ramsgate – now get ready for the sculptures

EXCLUSIVE By Dave Mairs
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NOT many people know it, but Ramsgate can boast the UK's largest outdoor art gallery – and now the man behind it has unveiled plans for a new, even more ambitious, project

The Great Wall of Ramsgate was the brainchild of Gerry O'Donnell and, like many such ventures, grew from small beginnings to the point where it now hosts 102 paintings by 94 artists, with another 18 being painted.

The works have been placed on hoardings around the Royal Sands development, a complex of apartments being built on the site of the former Pleasurama arcade by Cardy Construction.

The saga of the derelict site has been contentious for years, and the Great Wall has given a flourish to what has been a problematic area.

And now Mr O'Donnell has set his sights on The Great Light Sculptures of Ramsgate.

"Having achieved the success of the Great Wall, I thought what could be our next project – I love the arts, I love doing things.

"I was looking at Ramsgate harbour and remember the rows of fairy lights – now, that isn't going to happen again, I know, but I did think there was something we could do."

WALL OF FAME: Gerry O'Donnell wants sculptures to light up seafront site after The Great Wall of Ramsgate's success

The first image that came to Mr O'Donnell's mind was a shining, one-dimensional, sailing ship and then, as ever, the ambition expanded.

"The objective is to put two or three light sculptures around the harbour and pier yard which people would see as they came down Royal Parade. They would be at least 15ft high and the sailing ship would be 45ft.

"I would also like to see the lights on Royal Parade itself restored – there's a few missing and it makes the town looks run-down and tatty."

The materials for the planned sculptures has yet to be decided – "it's fluid," said Mr O'Donnell – but early thoughts lean towards stainless-steel structures set in concrete plinths.

Planning permission and other such intricacies aside, there is, of course, the small matter of financing the project.

Mr O'Donnell has a "best guesstimate" of £500,000 and accepts that such a figure represents a considerably greater challenge than that posed by the Great Wall project, where money was raised solely through voluntary effort.

With the sculptures, there might need to be recourse to (cash-strapped) local authorities, but Mr O'Donnell is confident that the record of the Great Wall committee stands for itself.

"We've shown that we deliver what we promise," he said. "The principle of raising money is always the same – you've just got to be a bit bigger in your minds."

■ **To contribute to the project, which will be run under the wings of the Great Wall of Ramsgate, call 07884 277898 or email greatwalloframsgate@bt.connect.com.**

■ **Go to yourthanet.co.uk for all the latest news and sport headlines.**

BAD WEATHER

'Low priority' areas to buy in their own salt for winter

By Marijke Cox
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PARISHES and community groups will be able to buy their own salt bins next winter to cater for areas currently deemed low priority by officials.

It comes in response to requests from parishes to purchase and maintain bins for their areas to help cope during freezing temperatures and snow.

Currently there are more than 2,000 bins in the county, but these are placed only in priority areas, such as public footpaths and pavements.

At a Kent County Council environment, highways and waste overview and scrutiny committee meeting at County Hall this week, members voted overwhelmingly in favour of allowing parishes and community groups, currently without bins, the chance to purchase their own and subsequent refills.

Director of Kent Highway Services, John Burr, said where salt bins should be provided Kent County Council would continue to provide them, and the ranking system used to highlight priority areas would still be in place.

"In purchasing bins, we're talking about those places where there is not a high enough priority to justify funding, but where we wouldn't object to there being one placed," he said.

SNOW DAYS: Communities can now buy salt bins from Kent County Council in preparation for the winter freeze

A review looking into KCC and Kent Highways Service's response to last winter's harsh weather found that a number of parishes and groups had expressed a desire to purchase and manage their own bins.

Costs are estimated at £600 per bin, including a limited number of refills.

A KCC report into the changes said it would allow parishes to take control of what is bought and take responsibility for future maintenance and refilling.

But the document also warned of some disadvantages: "(There could be) an increase in salt bins across the county, potentially with some that are not necessary in areas where Kent Highway Services (KHS) already provide winter service gritting.

"From previous experience it is likely that in time these may become the responsibility of KHS in respect of maintenance, replacement and filling."

The report stated that leaving the system unchanged would limit "the proliferation of salt bins", but that the needs of all areas would not be met.

The majority of members voted to allow parishes to buy their own salt bins if desired.

Cllr Robert Brookbank, representative for Swanley, said it was the "only way forward".

The winter review also announced that one tonne salt and sand mix bags will be delivered to more than 100 parishes at the end of October or beginning of November to be stored for use during the winter season.

Last winter, bags were not delivered until after a forecast of snow, causing a delay in some arriving.

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COMMUNITY PROJECTS

County projects win £170,000 in TV show cash

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

COMMUNITY projects in three Kent towns secured a total of more than £170,000 lottery funding through the ITV People's Millions competition.

Four of the six finalists in the contest screened on Meridian Tonight were based in the county, with only the plan to create a new play park for children in Deal missing out in the public vote.

The first night of voting was won by the Ramsgate Tunnels Heritage Project, which plans to use its £53,000 prize to open a small section of the underground network which protected thousands of residents during World War Two.

The cash will enable campaigners to draw up a workable business plan to develop the tunnels as a tourist attraction and educational resource.

Thanet South MP Laura Sandys said: "It's wonderful news that the Ramsgate Tunnels have won this huge sum of money. The competition was tough but the tunnels triumphed because the public saw the immensely important role they could play in Thanet's tourism sector.

"Congratulations to all those involved, and thank you to everyone who voted."

The tunnels project defeated the Respite Holidays That Are Magic scheme – organised by the Medway Autism Group and Information Centre – which wants to purchase a holiday home at Allhallows-on-Sea on the Hoo Peninsula.

However, that project still picked up a £60,000 prize as the runner-up with the most votes.

The final night of voting ended in victory for Bradstow School's Streetpitch scheme in Broadstairs.

The school, which caters for autistic children, will use its £58,000 winnings to build a five-a-side football pitch with an artificial highway system surrounding it to teach pupils how to cross the road.

Fiona Dempsie, the Big Lottery Fund's head of region for the South East, said: "Congratulations to Bradstow School, Medway Autism Group and Information Centre and Ramsgate Town Council, who are all worthy winners.

"We've been so impressed with the strength of community spirit shown, with people getting behind their local project. I look forward to seeing these projects and the difference they will make in their communities when they open in 2012, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year."

Sixty lottery grants worth a total of £3.6 million will be awarded across the UK through the People's Millions scheme.

ITV chief executive Adam Crozier said: "We're delighted to be able to support the Jubilee People's Millions, which gives our viewers the opportunity to influence how thousands of pounds of lottery funding is spent in their community."

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THANK YOU: Members of the Ramsgate Tunnels Heritage Project celebrate winning £53,000 from ITV's People's Millions competition

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News

DARTFORD CROSSING

Small businesses slam congestion plan for toll

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A GROUP representing almost 7,000 of Kent's small businesses has criticised the Government's plan for managing congestion at the Dartford Crossing.

Roads minister Mike Penning announced last week that for the next six months the toll barriers will only be lifted once traffic queues stretch back further than Junctions 4 (Kent side) or 28 (Essex side) of the M25 – a distance of about 10 miles in either direction.

The Highways Agency will trial the system until the end of the year, but the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has described it as "not good enough".

North Kent branch chairman Neville Gaunt said: "A 10-mile queue means a massive delay for motorists and adds considerable expense for businesses due to fuel and time being wasted while the queue exists.

"We have seen it take up to two hours to travel that 10 miles in the past, and we believe that is an unacceptable delay.

"And it isn't just motorists on the M25 who are affected by such a queue. A 10-mile delay on the M25 means motorists using the A2, M20 and local roads around Dartford and Greenhithe are also caught up in the congestion as the queues rapidly extend along these main trunk roads, too."

HEADACHE: Dartford Crossing

Mr Gaunt added that due to the design of the barriers at the crossing, they cannot be permanently placed in the raised position and must be lowered for each vehicle that approaches.

"While the driver may not be paying the toll, there is still a significant time delay while that happens," he said.

"The FSB will be campaigning to cut the distance so that when queues reach J1 rather than J4 the toll charges are lifted, and for the barrier control technology to be changed so the barriers can be left in the up position permanently when tolls are not being charged."

The new system was announced as part of a consultation into controversial plans to increase the cost of using the Dartford Crossing by a massive 67 per cent.

Under the plans, car drivers will pay £2.50 to cross the River Thames – a £1 increase from the current price and £1.50 more than just two years ago.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "Clearly it is never good news when prices go up, but we welcome that the Government has made a commitment to look at the longer term capacity of the crossing.

"We have undertaken our own study and identified that the best place for a new crossing would be from between the east of Gravesend and the east of Tilbury. The benefits of this lower Thames crossing would help alleviate severe congestion and boost business and employment prospects by eight times more than at any other location."

COMPETITION

Win Diamond tickets to see the Aviva London Grand Prix

THE Aviva Series is bringing the world's best athletes to the Aviva London Grand Prix on August 5-6 at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, and one lucky reader will win the chance to watch the event from the best seat in the house.

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In the men's 400m hurdles British pair Dai Greene and Rhys Williams will be hoping to fend off the World and Olympic champion from the Dominican Republic, Felix Sanchez. British heroes Mo Farah and Phillips Idowu (pictured) will be joined by fellow big-name Brits Mark Lewis-Francis, Christine Ohuruogu, and Jenny Meadows, who will be hoping home support can spur them onto victory.

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Tickets will be available for one day of the event only and travel and accommodation costs will not be covered.

■ **For tickets or more information on the Aviva London Grand Prix visit uka.org.uk/aviva-series or phone 08000 556 056.**

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HEALTH

Watchdogs launch survey on hospital merger

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

PATIENTS who use two hospital trusts earmarked for a merger have been asked to raise any fears they may have about the proposal.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust is currently in discussions with Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust about the possibility of combining a number of services, sparking concerns people may have to travel miles further to receive certain treatments.

Health watchdogs from the Kent and Medway Local Involvement Networks (LINks) are now asking patients to fill in an online survey ahead of the proposed merger being implemented next spring.

Medway LINk project worker Neville Dack said: "Our role is to inform and involve patients in improving health services, and something like this has the potential for huge implications for healthcare depending on how they do it.

"We have received more than 140 responses so far, and a lot of those voice concerns about how far people may have to travel. The hospital trusts have already said that maternity, accident and emergency, children's and outpatient departments will be maintained at both sites, but there are other services that people also access on a regular basis.

"If they're talking about merging backroom staff and making efficiencies then that makes sense, but it's a huge undertaking and our concern is that people have safe, effective and efficient services, and that's what we will be trying to safeguard."

In April the Medway NHS Foundation Trust – which runs Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham – was criticised by the health watchdog Monitor for being in "significant breach" of the terms relating to its foundation trust status by failing to meet its financial plans.

In contrast, Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust – which runs the PFI (private finance initiative) Darent Valley Hospital – has been rated by the Care Quality Commission as "excellent" for its financial management.

Mr Dack said: "It's unclear what consultation the two sides are doing because it's an internal process at the moment, but there are so many unknowns.

"I don't know how the two hospitals will work together in terms of finances with Darent Valley being a PFI.

"I have every sympathy for the trusts because they're only in the research phase at the moment, but the fear is we'll get to September and the merger will be a fait accompli."

A joint statement by both NHS trusts said the purpose of coming together was to build on the range and quality of services, not reduce them.

It said: "By working together we can build on what we already do well and create an even stronger range of local services for the future. In addition, by merging the boards and some support functions, we can cut out duplication and release savings that can be reinvested in more and better frontline care.

"We will not make any significant changes without consulting local people first."

■ **Complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z8SZNHK.**

■ **See yourmedway.co.uk for news and sport headlines.**

PROPOSAL: Medway NHS Foundation, which runs Medway Maritime Hospital (above), is discussing merger plans with Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

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TERRORISM

Book puts spotlight on torture

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

BRITAIN'S alleged role in the transfer and torture of suspected terrorists has been put under the microscope by a Kent county councillor.

Roger Gough – KCC cabinet member for business strategy, performance and health reform – collaborated on the new book Account Rendered, which details how the United States came to adopt policies of abduction, detention and maltreatment of prisoners.

The publication of the book is timely as an inquiry into the use of torture and the alleged complicity of the UK Government will be held this year.

"It's been very damaging to the intelligence services that these stories and rumours have been doing the rounds for a while now," said Cllr Gough, who represents the Darent Valley ward in Sevenoaks for the Tories. "The truth can't be any worse and indeed may be less harmful than what's been alleged, so what we're trying to do with this book is get everything out in the open so Britain can move on and continue to make a big contribution in dealing with terrorism.

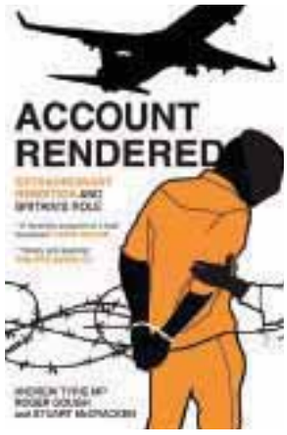
"There's been this drip of allegations where ministers have said one thing and then had to admit they were wrong – for example when it was admitted in 2008 that terror suspects had been rendered through (the British territory of) Diego Garcia after a number of previous denials.

"It's shocking that Americans who pushed for anti-torture legislation were the people who abandoned all that and adopted these practices, and that Britain got wrapped up in it."

Cllr Gough's co-authors on Account Rendered are Stuart McCracken and Andrew Tyrie, who is a Tory MP and chairman of the all-party Parliamentary group on extraordinary rendition, the process by which terror suspects are transferred to countries which do not have laws to prevent torture.

The book examines America's response to 9/11 and contains a large number of documents relating to issues including the war on terror and the CIA's global network of secret prisons.

"As we move towards the Government's inquiry – which will start quite soon – we thought we would set out what we know has happened as well as questions which still need to be answered," said Cllr Gough. "My role was to draw everything together to produce what is both a book and an account of everything that has happened, and we've gathered together a shedload of documents that provide some of the evidence.



TAKING NO PRISONERS: Cllr Roger Gough has co-authored Account Rendered, which looks at Britain's role in the transfer of terror suspects for the American government

"I've worked on it for the last couple of years at the expense of my family and my garden, so it's good to finally have the finished product."

Cllr Gough is a former research director for the Policy Exchange think tank and also worked on Justice Secretary Ken Clarke's Democracy Task Force when the Tories were in opposition. He has written on foreign affairs and was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary for his biography on the country's last communist leader, Janos Kadar.

"There are a number of other topics I'd love to write about but certainly not in the immediate future," he said. "My role as cabinet member is very fulfilling and very full time."

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EDUCATION

Special needs school 'outstanding'

A SCHOOL which caters exclusively for children with special needs has been rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

The education watchdog gave Gravesend's Ifield School top marks in four of the five key indicators – for overall effectiveness; achievement; leadership and management; and behaviour and safety – following a two-day inspection early last month.

The one remaining indicator, teaching, scored a 2 for 'good'.

In a report, Ofsted inspector Mike Kell wrote: "Ifield is an outstanding school. It is ambitious and outward looking, constantly seeking out innovative practices and additional opportunities to improve the quality and depth of education it offers.

"The relentless pursuit of removing barriers to learning ensures all pupils have the same opportunity to benefit from what the school offers.

"Learning and personal development are promoted exceptionally well because support and guidance are finely tuned to every pupil's needs, learning style and communication requirements."

Ifield is a community special school which caters for 184 children aged four-19, of which 28 are sixth-form students based at North West Kent College.

All pupils have a statement of special educational needs, with almost three quarters for autism or severe learning difficulties.

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RELIGION

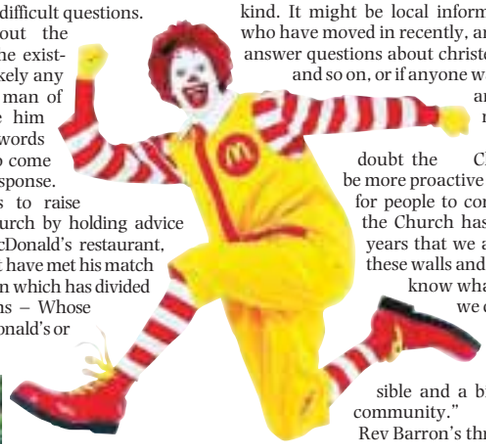
Bible and Big Macs on menu as vicar serves up religion

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AS VICAR of St Mary's church in Greenhithe, the Reverend Richard Barron is well versed in the art of answering difficult questions.

Whether it's about the meaning of life or the existence of God, it's unlikely any query posed to this man of the cloth will have him tripping over his words while he struggles to come up with a rational response.

But in his efforts to raise awareness of the Church by holding advice surgeries inside a McDonald's restaurant, Rev Barron might just have met his match with the killer question which has divided people for generations – Whose chips are better? McDonald's or Burger King's?



THE GOD FOOD GUIDE: Rev Richard Barron holds a weekly advice surgery at McDonald's in Greenhithe

He has yet to be troubled by the query, but that's not to say he wouldn't deliver his verdict in favour of Burger King should the issue crop up.

"I don't go into the restaurant to preach," he said. "I offer myself to help with inquiries of any kind. It might be local information for people who have moved in recently, and I will of course answer questions about christenings, weddings and so on, or if anyone wants to talk about any issues they may have.

"There's no doubt the Church needs to be more proactive and not just wait for people to come to us. I think the Church has been saying for years that we are closed behind these walls and that people don't know what goes on or why we do certain things.

"We need to find ways of being more accessible and a bigger part of the community."

Rev Barron's three-month agreement with McDonald's recently came to an end but he will continue to be stationed at the restaurant every Friday from 4-5pm due to the early success of the idea.

The fast-food joint is located next door to St Mary's Greenhithe, and Rev Barron set up shop after receiving the green light from the branch manager.

He said: "There are posters up in McDonald's to say who I am and when I'm coming in, but I do also sit there with a sign board and some interesting literature, looking available.

"I'm there for people to approach me, but I do also walk around the restaurant and talk to the customers.

"There's not exactly a mad rush but people do seem to be glad to see me when I'm there, and last week a couple were actually waiting for me to arrive, which was nice.

"There have been no negative comments or mickey-taking at all. Many of the teenagers and other children who buy food there know me from the local schools anyway, and they've been very positive and friendly."

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POLICE APPEAL

Death at motorhome treated as suspicious

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a man was found dead in a motorhome at a park and ride in Canterbury.

Officers were called to New Dover Road on Tuesday, June 28, around 12.50am after receiving a report a man had died suddenly.

Following a preliminary post-mortem, Kent Police are now treating the death as suspicious.

Det Insp Matt Banks said: "Officers are keen to speak with anyone that may have used the park-and-ride facilities along New Dover Road in the late evening of Monday, 27 June."

A woman in her 40s has been questioned by officers at a local police station.

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CRIME

Campaigner attacks police over Stone

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AN ARMCHAIR detective who ran a website dedicated to clearing Chillenden murderer Michael Stone's name has criticised Kent Police's refusal to reopen the case.

Stone was convicted of the 1996 murders of Lin and Megan Russell mainly on the evidence of a fellow prisoner who claimed he had confessed to him in prison.

But supporters of the former Gillingham resident say there is now compelling evidence that killer Levi Bellfield – found guilty last month of the murder of Milly Dowler in 2002 – is the man responsible.

Kent Police have so far refused to reopen the case, which the creator of www.michaelstone.co.uk, John Aidiniantz, says is the wrong move.

"They aren't looking for anyone else but the chances of Michael Stone being the Chillenden murderer are about the same as for the judge who sentenced him," he said.

"Stone's DNA was not found at the scene of the crime so it is hoped the police will keep an open mind as a result of the convictions of Levi Bellfield, and co-operate with the reopening of the case wherever the results lead.

"Kent Police are keen to remind the public they are not looking for anyone else, and indeed they stopped looking for anyone else the moment they arrested Michael Stone 14 years ago.

"That is not something to be trumpeted if it turns out Levi Bellfield was responsible for killing Lin and Megan Russell."

Dr Russell, 45, and her daughters Megan, six, and Josie, nine, were tied up and beaten with a hammer as they walked home through fields.

Miraculously, Josie survived the attack and is now an artist.

Mr Aidiniantz, who describes himself as a "retired armchair detective", created the website dedicated to Stone because he was concerned the prisoner had never received a fair trial.

He said the alleged confession to a fellow inmate should not have been relied upon, and other evidence – such as the level of violence, the use of a vehicle and a description provided by Josie – pointed to Bellfield as the killer.

INNOCENT MAN? John Aidiniantz says Michael Stone (left) is the victim of a miscarriage of justice and that Levi Bellfield (right), the killer of Milly Dowler, is the man Kent Police should have pursued

Mr Aidiniantz added that while Stone seems a "thoroughly dislikeable character", he was attracted to the case due to the "absurdity" of his conviction.

He said: "Even if Michael Stone had shouted his confession from the rooftops facing the Old Bailey or had presented his confession on a plate to the police, this would only have proved he had read the newspapers or watched the TV.

"It would not have proved he was the murderer unless something more was said – something which only the murderer could have known and which was not known by the whole population of Kent."

Stone, who was jailed in 1998, has lost a retrial and has had two appeals rejected.

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Three female meerkat kittens, born in April, have made their first appearance. These are the first kittens to be born to meerkat Tiggs, who had to be hand reared when she was an infant. Tiggs was born at Port Lympne in May, 2009. Head keeper Richard Barnes took her into his home and fed her milk every two hours.

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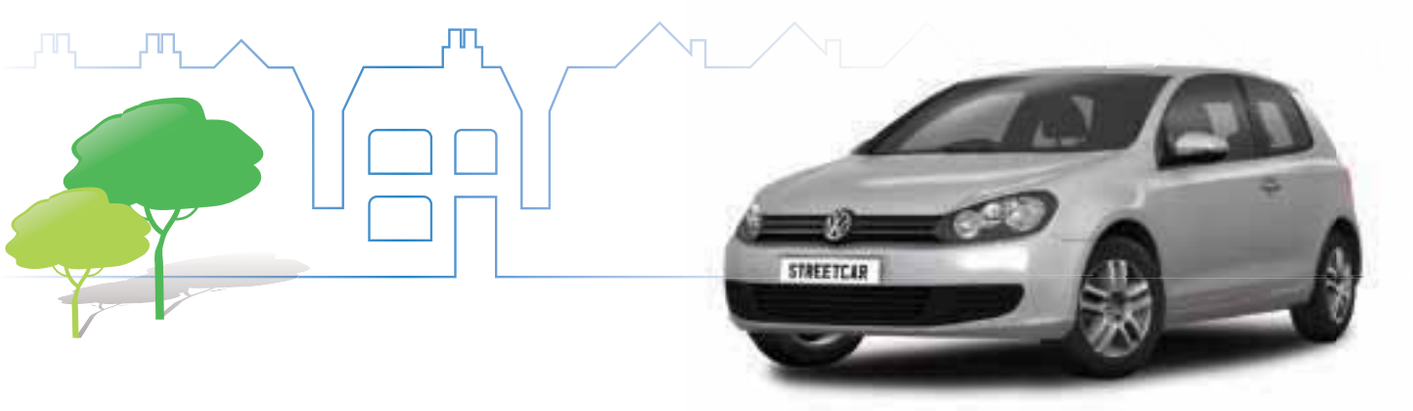

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TRANSPORT

Commuters given instant fares claim

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A NEW rail scheme which will give train passengers the chance to claim compensation immediately on delayed journeys has been launched.

The Delay Repay initiative was rolled out by operator Southeastern after it came under fire in the winter for a poor service which saw commuters suffer delays and cancellations during two bouts of heavy snow.

Despite complaints from passengers and MPs, performance statistics showed the company ran an average of 82.04 per cent of trains on time last year, narrowly meeting the 82 per cent target. Had it fallen below this figure, passengers would have been eligible for a five per cent discount off fares.

Campaigners pushed for a better compensation system and Southeastern developed the new scheme to allow commuters to claim 50 per cent of the fare back if any journey is delayed by 30 minutes or more, and 100 per cent if delayed by more than an hour.

Charles Horton, Southeastern managing director, said: "This is something passenger groups have called for and we're sure customers will feel this is a fairer arrangement."

Passengers will be able to make claims either online or via a freepost leaflet available at stations.

Compensation is paid in rail travel vouchers that can be used as payment towards another rail ticket including season tickets in the next 12 months.

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News

DARTFORD CROSSING

Small businesses slam congestion plan for toll

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A GROUP representing almost 7,000 of Kent's small businesses has criticised the Government's plan for managing congestion at the Dartford Crossing.

Roads minister Mike Penning announced last week that for the next six months the toll barriers will only be lifted once traffic queues stretch back further than Junctions 4 (Kent side) or 28 (Essex side) of the M25 – a distance of about 10 miles in either direction.

The Highways Agency will trial the system until the end of the year, but the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has described it as "not good enough".

North Kent branch chairman Neville Gaunt said: "A 10-mile queue means a massive delay for motorists and adds considerable expense for businesses due to fuel and time being wasted while the queue exists.

"We have seen it take up to two hours to travel that 10 miles in the past, and we believe that is an unacceptable delay.

"And it isn't just motorists on the M25 who are affected by such a queue. A 10-mile delay on the M25 means motorists using the A2, M20 and local roads around Dartford and Greenhithe are also caught up in the congestion as the queues rapidly extend along these main trunk roads, too."

HEADACHE: Dartford Crossing

Mr Gaunt added that due to the design of the barriers at the crossing, they cannot be permanently placed in the raised position and must be lowered for each vehicle that approaches.

"While the driver may not be paying the toll, there is still a significant time delay while that happens," he said.

"The FSB will be campaigning to cut the distance so that when queues reach J1 rather than J4 the toll charges are lifted, and for the barrier control technology to be changed so the barriers can be left in the up position permanently when tolls are not being charged."

The new system was announced as part of a consultation into controversial plans to increase the cost of using the Dartford Crossing by a massive 67 per cent.

Under the plans, car drivers will pay £2.50 to cross the River Thames – a £1 increase from the current price and £1.50 more than just two years ago.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "Clearly it is never good news when prices go up, but we welcome that the Government has made a commitment to look at the longer term capacity of the crossing.

"We have undertaken our own study and identified that the best place for a new crossing would be from between the east of Gravesend and the east of Tilbury. The benefits of this lower Thames crossing would help alleviate severe congestion and boost business and employment prospects by eight times more than at any other location."

COMPETITION

Win Diamond tickets to see the Aviva London Grand Prix

THE Aviva Series is bringing the world's best athletes to the Aviva London Grand Prix on August 5-6 at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, and one lucky reader will win the chance to watch the event from the best seat in the house.

We have a pair of Diamond tickets worth £200 to the event so you can take your place in seats right on the finish line for all the big races, including the 100m which is set to feature former world record holder Asafa Powell.

Spectators can expect a tasty showdown in the men's 110m hurdles as America's David Oliver takes on world record holder Dayron Robles of Cuba, and Britain's Andy Turner.

In the men's 400m hurdles British pair Dai Greene and Rhys Williams will be hoping to fend off the World and Olympic champion from the Dominican Republic, Felix Sanchez. British heroes Mo Farah and Phillips Idowu (pictured) will be joined by fellow big-name Brits Mark Lewis-Francis, Christine Ohuruogu, and Jenny Meadows, who will be hoping home support can spur them onto victory.

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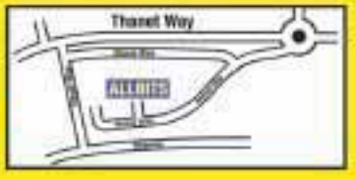

TRANSPORT

Cuts are driving us all mad

Government is to blame for rising transport prices that are creating a cost of living crisis, argues Labour's shadow transport secretary Maria Eagle

KENT motorists were dealt another blow last week with the decision of the Tory-led Government to hike the cost of using the Dartford Crossing by two-thirds.

Increasing the cost to £2 this year and £2.50 next year, on top of the current high cost of fuel, could feel like the final straw for those who have to use the crossing regularly.

Filling the tank has never cost more, and the Chancellor has added to the burden by increasing VAT on fuel to 20 per cent. Thanks to fuel duty, this is a tax on a tax. In rural areas prices can be up to 10-15p per litre higher.

But it isn't just fuel costs that are making car ownership so expensive, it is huge rises in insurance premiums, up 74 per cent in the past year for a small family car. And it's breakdown cover, up 19 per cent, and servicing costs, up seven per cent. Even the cost of a new tyre has doubled on a year ago. For those on average incomes, the cost of running a car has now reached 13 per cent of household expenditure, and for the lowest income group it now comprises a quarter of their monthly budget.

At the same time, people are seeing wages frozen or hours cut. Whether it is mortgage or rent, energy and water bills, or the cost of the weekly shop, prices are rising while money coming in has stayed the same or dropped. That squeeze on household budgets is the cost of living crisis facing Kent families.

And the rising cost of getting around is adding to the burden. That's why the government was wrong to increase VAT and wrong to increase the cost of using the Dartford Crossing.

Public transport is also more expensive, with rail costs now out of the reach for many. I visited Chatham a couple of weeks ago to launch Labour's campaign against Government plans to allow rail fares to spiral.

Ministers have told the train operating companies they can increase ticket prices by three per cent above inflation for each of the next three years. With inflation set to go up, that means fares will be 28 per cent higher in 2015 than they are today. Medway commuters for example will be facing a season ticket price of over £5,000.

The reason for these fare rises is to fill the black hole in the Department for Transport's budget, caused by the decision to cut too far and too fast. It's right that we must reduce the deficit – Labour would have halved it over this parliament – but the Government's decision to go further will cause hardship for many.

The other consequence of the Government's cuts is the loss of bus services and the scaling back or removal of transport subsidies for young people.

A combination of the end of EMA and the loss of bus services and bus passes is putting at risk young people's ability to stay on in education post-16.

"As a start they should abandon plans to raise the cost of using the Dartford Crossing"

And older people are suffering too as a result of losing local bus services. During the election campaign David Cameron claimed he'd protect free bus passes for older people.

What he didn't tell pensioners was he would be taking away bus services instead. For those services that remain, bus fares are also going up in many places by more than inflation.

Transport isn't a luxury, but an essential part of our lives. However you get around, the cost of transport is rising.

The Tory-led government doesn't understand the difficulties caused by the rising cost of fuel and public transport prices. They should listen to people's experiences and do something to tackle the cost of living crisis hurting families in Kent. And as a start, they should abandon their plans to raise the cost of using the Dartford Crossing.

KOS COMMENT

No excuse for council over "panel from hell"

THE appeals panel debacle that affected pupils in Tunbridge Wells last year is a damning indictment on Kent County Council's ability to manage its own admissions process.

While this may well have been a one-off, the fact the Local Government Ombudsman found so many things wrong with the system suggests a repeat is certainly not beyond the realms of possibility.

KCC has had more than a year to rectify the situation and says a lot of training and development has taken place in that time.

For the sake of children and parents across Kent, let's hope we've seen the last of such "panels from hell".

Fast-food vicar needs more than just loaves

CHRISTIANS believe Jesus fed the 5,000 with just five loaves of bread and two fish, but Greenhithe vicar Richard Barron should not expect the masses to stick around if that's all he has to offer as the spiritual voice of McDonald's.

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Spencer shot is off target

THE fuss over celebrity Phil Spencer (KoS, July 2) shooting a deer is predictable and boring.

Those making a fuss would be better to combat real cruelty by enquiring as to which Kent schools feed Halal meat to their pupils.

The deer had the benefit of dying quickly.

Quentin Williamson, Dartford

Give red card to MP's play

HISTORY records that when Rome was burning Nero was playing the fiddle, and that when the Titanic was sinking the band was still playing on.

The future history of Romney Marsh will now surely record that when Dungeness B was condemned to a lingering death its MP was away playing football in TV studios across the capital.

Time, I believe, therefore for Damian Collins to hang up his boots and leave the political field if he now considers the Byzantine politics of Fifa more worthy of his time than bringing jobs and a new nuclear power station to Dungeness.

Donald Worsley
secretary Folkestone and Hythe Labour Party

Hospital care reflects poorly

I AM pleased the Care Quality Commission has found that the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate is treating the elderly with dignity and respect.

Unfortunately, this was not so in September, 2010, when I went there for a hysterectomy.

I am 75 and had only ever been in hospital in the 60s to have my babies – a wonderful experience.

When I filled in the admission form and ticked that I lived alone, the reception nurse said someone from the Red Cross would visit me in hospital, and on discharge would call at my home to help with shopping, prescriptions, etc. This never happened.

I am unversed in modern hospital practice, but found I was told nothing, had to ask about everything, ie, "can I have a shower, can I get out of bed?" – resulting in my discharge notes stating "can be very anxious".

I was in a ward of four beds – one very ill lady was sick all night on one occasion. There were not enough sick bowls and ringing our buzzers produced no-one for ages.

I found the food very poor, likewise the care. If I can possibly help it, I will never go into hospital again.

Janet Verrent, Birchington

Boris' flight plan of fancy

SO, ONCE again Boris Johnson is trying to get a new airport for London built off the Kent coast because Londoners "can't be expected to put up with the noise" of their new airport; and the people of Kent can?

I believe there is only one way to make Boris shut up, and that is to give him some of his own medicine.

To this end I suggest Kent and Essex councils get together and make a formal planning application to build a new airport in the middle of London, and see how Boris likes having other people's airports foisted on him.

Yes, I know a new airport in the middle of London is a silly idea, but it is no more silly than Boris's idea, and in fact (tongue in cheek) I have selected a site where a new airport could be built at minimal cost.

The Mall would make a perfect runway; it is long and straight and has streetlights down the middle that could be replaced by runway lights.

Green Park, St James' Park, and Hyde Park would make perfect car parks, and all of the buildings in the area are already Government owned, so no expensive land purchase and building is necessary to provide terminal buildings.

Granted that with Buckingham Palace at the end of the runway we would have to provide the Royal family with ear-plugs, but that is a minor expense in comparison.

So compared to Boris plan, mine has the advantage of cheapness and quick provision, and it won't need an entire new set of roads and railways to be built either. So let's see if Boris can come up with any arguments against it.

If Londoners want another airport, then let them have it in their own backyard.

David Girling, Gillingham

Programme is ready to work

I READ with interest the article 'Return to work scheme 'set to fail the jobless' in the most deprived areas of the county' (KoS, June 26) and would like to reassure readers the Work Programme will work in the area and make a real difference to those who need to get back into work.

We have been tasked by the Government to deliver the Work Programme, the initiative to get the long-term unemployed back to work, in the South East, and realise that each area has specific obstacles to overcome.

Over the next seven years we will be working with more than 60,000 clients in the region, to provide tailored training and support to help them back into work.

Through our unique network of partnerships with employers, charities, local authorities and community organisations we will provide a tailored package of support and advice, helping people into long-term, sustainable jobs.

We have the local knowledge vital to making the Work Programme work, and as such have access to 'hidden jobs' – those not advertised through traditional means. We also know that enterprise is crucial for job creation and for those wanting to start their own business we will offer the personalised training to develop the skills necessary to do so.

We are excited about the challenges ahead and are confident in our ability to make a real difference to unemployed people in Kent.

Andy Bowie,
director of business development Avanta

Sickened by race to bottom

AS A Labour Party member and councillor I was very disappointed that Ed Milliband was unable to support last week's public sector strikes.

Contrary to government propaganda, and unlike the MPs who condemn them, the overwhelming majority of public servants are extremely badly paid and will not receive those over-generous pensions we hear so much about.

Yet Cameron and his cronies seem to think it's okay to reduce still further the already poor employment conditions of hard-working people like teachers, social workers and nurses, who help to hold together the fabric of the communities in which we live.

It appears to me that as a country we now seem to be competing in a sickening 'race to the bottom' where the most vulnerable in society are being forced to pay for the mistakes of the rich and powerful.

In my book that's not fair and unlike Milliband, Cameron and Clegg I fully support the organisations who are now fighting back against politicians who are totally out of touch with how ordinary people are struggling to get by.

Thankfully my anger is consoled by the fact that recent events in Egypt, Lybia, Syria, Spain and Greece demonstrate that, if pushed too far, people will use the power of democratic protest to remove incompetent and corrupt rulers.

Councillor Ian Driver,
Thanet District Council

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TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q I AM in a job which gets the government-approved 40p mileage allowance for car travel. My company pays 22p a mile each month on the understanding that the remaining 18p a mile will be paid at the end of the tax year by the Government. I have now received a claim form stating the miles I have driven, how much my company has paid me, and granting 20pc tax relief on the difference. What has happened to the rest of the 18p a mile I am owed?

A YOU need to talk to your employer. If your job qualifies you to get 40p a mile for using your own car to visit customers or carry out other work for your company, then that is what you are entitled to receive – 40p a mile, not 22p. Here is how the system works. The Government accepts that lots of people use their own cars, motorbikes or bicycles on business. So we are all allowed to receive a certain amount from our employer to cover the cost of this, without any tax being due. For cars and vans, the amount is 40p a mile for the first 10,000 miles, and then 25p a mile after that. For motorbikes, the figure is 24p, and for bicycles it is 20p, with no limits. If your employer is generous and gives you more than these amounts, you pay tax on the extra. If your employer pays you less, you get tax relief on the difference – and this is where you find yourself. Your employer has given you only 22p a mile, whereas the Government reckons your car costs you 40p a mile to run, so it gives you tax relief on the difference. Your company seems to think it can give you 22p and that the Government will make up the balance. That's wrong. If this was how it worked, employers would pay 1p a mile and let the government chip in 39p. If your company is paying you only 22p a mile, it is getting the use of your car on the cheap.

Q I CANCELLED my house insurance and asked my bank not to allow further direct debit payments, but the bank replied that "this is not how the system works". Later, I cancelled my satellite TV subscription, but direct debits continued for three months. You have said in your column that banks must refund debits that are questioned, but this has not happened.

A YOU may need to change your bank. The Direct Debit Guarantee says: "You can cancel a direct debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required". You are asked to tell the company or organisation as well, so it does not try to collect payments you have cancelled. And if a payment is collected without authority, it does not matter whose fault it is. The Direct Debit Guarantee clearly states: "If an error is made in the payment of your direct debit, by the organisation or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society". Remind your bank that it has issued this guarantee and you expect it to be honoured.

Q I BELIEVE older people should check interest paid on their savings. A relative who is 89 asked me to take her passbook into Santander to have the interest added. On savings of £18,500, interest for one year was just over £13.

A EVERYONE should take your advice – though you are right to think that it is often older people who leave savings untouched and at risk from poor interest rates. But there is a separate danger, too. Many accounts offer temporary bonuses, so the "headline rate" of, say, 3pc interest might tumble to about 1pc, typically after a year. Regular checks are needed.

Q BEFORE going abroad, I cleared the balance on my HSBC credit card. Unfortunately, a small purchase was still in the pipeline, and £9 fell due and was paid late. HSBC revoked my card, and when I applied to Santander for a current account with a credit card, I was refused because a credit agency check showed I had made three credit applications within six months.

A YOU have told me that HSBC hinted its decision might change if you had an account and not just a credit card. So, I do wonder why you went to Santander rather than open an HSBC account if a card came with it. Your credit agency record now makes you look a bit desperate. Do not apply for cards elsewhere and make it worse. As a temporary measure, until your record improves, consider asking a family member to let you be a second cardholder on their account.

Q IS THERE a watchdog for cash machines? I drew out £100, but my statement shows I took £102. My bank says it is not responsible.

A BANK machines do not charge you, but some filling stations and shops have commercial machines that do charge. These machines must display a warning. Complaints are handled by the council's trading standards department.

■ **If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. Neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

AT RISK: Terrace houses are likely to make up 40pc of repossessions in the UK

Terrace homes more likely to be repossessed

TERRACE houses are likely to account for about 40pc of repossessions in the UK this year, according to new analysis of the market.

Mortgage administration company HML, which carried out the study, based its findings on analysis of 320,000 mortgage accounts.

"Our forecast shows terraces and flats across the UK are generally more at risk of repossession than detached and semi-detached homes," said Neil Warman, of HML.

"Terraces and flats tend to be the property of choice for first-time buyers, and lenders understand granting mortgages to people who haven't had them before is riskier than lending to someone with an established track record.

"However, all borrowers have to contend with the rising cost of living, employment uncertainty, stagnant wages and the fallout from the largest cuts to government spending for more than a generation.

"There is already evidence these factors are starting to impact on homeowners, as there has been a moderate increase in the number of borrowers whose arrears represent more than 10pc of the value of their mortgages.

"This is likely to feed through into higher repossessions next year, when we are forecasting an overall figure of between 35,000 and 40,000 repossessions."

Fuel poverty casts a long, cold shadow

By Ed Foss
MyMoney 24 writer

THE dark spectre of fuel poverty is now looming over up to a third of all households.

Depending on which definition of fuel poverty is used – a debate has been raging on this issue for some time – somewhere between 24pc and 33pc of households are now classed as 'fuel poor'.

And there is a real fear that the rising costs of energy, allied with static incomes and inflationary pressures on many goods and services means the fuel poverty figure will continue to rise quickly.

Fuel poverty is currently defined as when 10pc or more of net household income is spent on energy bills.

Previously it was seen as an issue affecting mainly pensioners and lower income groups.

However, as energy bills have gone through the roof – up an average of 71pc in five years – the total number of households in fuel poverty has soared, with the more affluent middle classes now also falling prey.

And if a new definition of fuel poverty, suggested by a range of organisations including Consumer Focus, Friends of the Earth and Age UK, were to be used, the number of people in this difficult situation would increase from 24pc to 33pc.

Those organisations want housing costs, such as mortgage or rent payments, to be removed from income to give an 'after housing costs' measure rather than the current 'before housing costs' measure which they feel fails to give the full picture.

Ann Robinson, director of consumer policy at Uswitch.com, said: "Rocketing energy prices mean the middle classes are no longer immune to social ills such as fuel poverty.

"The fact is that we can now find the fuel poor amongst all walks of life and in all types of households.

"Start to factor in housing costs such as mortgage and rental payments and we are left with the shocking image of a third of all British households living in fuel poverty.

"The sad truth is that consumers are paying a heavy price for this country's disjointed, incoherent and unaffordable energy policy."

There was now a real urgency for the Government to get on with its review of fuel poverty so it can relieve the misery facing those who cannot afford to keep warm this winter, said Mrs Robinson.

In the meantime, households can start protecting themselves by taking two key steps.

These are to pay the lowest possible price for your energy and learn to use less of it by looking at longer-term energy efficiency measures, such as insulating lofts and cavity walls.

At the moment, single working parents are the most likely group to be in fuel poverty, with 39pc of these households fuel poor.

Meanwhile, 36pc of working-class households are in fuel poverty, as are 15pc of middle-class households.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

SOLE traders and SMEs have revealed that reams of red tape and regulations are responsible for them not taking on additional staff. The British Chambers of Commerce study found forthcoming pension requirements, dismissal rules and sickness absence were considered the biggest obstacles and called on the Government to cut legislation to stimulate growth. The Government must now find the right regulation balance, with enough in place to protect workers but not too much in place as to make it unattractive for sole traders to take on extra staff.

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Federation and hauliers cross with Dartford Crossing plans

By Simon Robinson
simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

HAULIERS will be hit by controversial plans to increase the Dartford Crossing toll, according to the Freight Transport Association.

The Tunbridge Wells-based organisation has raised concerns with the price-hike proposal, which will see HGVs charged £6 to cross from Dartford to Thurrock by 2012.

The fee rise was unveiled last week as part of a package of controversial Crossing congestion management proposals.

Highways Agency bosses have been given permission to trial a 'free-flow' congestion-easing system that will see the pay barriers lifted – allowing motorists to cross without paying – once traffic jams pass the 10-mile mark.

The FTA tentatively welcomed the move, but the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) said 10 miles was too long.

An FTA spokesman said: "The Dartford-Thurrock Crossing is a key piece of freight infrastructure and is used by thousands of commercial vehicles every day. For most, it is the only viable option, but the congestion that can occur around it represents a huge cost to our members – around £50 per hour. So we support what the Government is trying to achieve with the introduction of free-flow technology, not charging when congestion is particularly heavy, and looking into an additional Thames crossing.

CONCERNS: Both the FSB and the FTA have raised issues with Government plans for easing congestion and raising prices at the Dartford Crossing

"However, we are very concerned about the scale and quick succession of the increases being proposed to pay for it, which will amount to an increase to £6 for HGVs per crossing by 2012.

"Forecasts show congestion is only going to get worse, so industry will feel a lot better when we see hard evidence of real improvements being made to the toll booths or, even better, the construction of a Thames crossing to ease the strain and reduce transport costs and emissions.

"We would like to see the tolls scrapped entirely, but with the economy as it is we are sure they won't say goodbye to this revenue stream.

"However, we do want those congestion-busting measures to be introduced as soon as possible so our members aren't going to be paying more for a system which isn't fit for purpose."

The FSB urged the Government to reduce the 'free-flow' 10-mile tailback marker as the cost to Kent businesses of such congestion was high.

North Kent branch chairman Neville Gaunt said: "A 10-mile queue means a massive delay for motorists and adds considerable expense for businesses due to fuel and time being wasted while the queue exists. We have seen it take up to two hours to travel that 10 miles in the past, and we believe that is an unacceptable delay.

"It isn't just motorists on the M25 who are affected by such a queue. A 10-mile delay on the M25 means motorists using the A2, M20 and roads around Dartford and Greenhithe are also caught up in the congestion as the queues rapidly extend along these main trunk roads, too."

TRADE

Office space offer for small start-ups

COUNCIL chiefs have launched a free hot-desk scheme to give businesses a helping hand in weathering the economic downturn.

Canterbury City Council has made space available at its office in Lakesview Enterprise Centre, Hersden, as part of its three-year cross-border TEN Project.

TEN boss Natalia Sukhram said: "The office gives individuals the chance to experience working from a wireless commercial environment, away from the day-to-day distractions at home.

"It can also be used as extra space to hold meetings or for projects."

Paul Babra, of Canterbury Curry Club, whose business has expanded into Belgium and France, added: "TEN is helping small businesses like ours to expand our culinary expertise within the EU."

Companies with 10 or fewer employees, sole traders and pre-start businesses are eligible.

For more information, email natalia.sukhram@canterbury.gov.uk

WATCHDOG: CLA head Martin Jamieson

WATCHDOG

Ex-medical manager becomes rural head

KENT business leader Martin Jamieson has been appointed as the head of a national rural watchdog.

The experienced manager, who led Ashford-based Smiths Medical International – a company with 2,400 staff and a turnover of more than £400 million – for seven years, will take up the role of director general of the Country Land and Business Association (CLA).

Jamieson, who owns a smallholding in Stalisfield, near Faversham, said: "The CLA is a great organisation that is vital to ensure the voice of land-owners and managers is heard. I look forward to leading its staff through the challenges ahead."

CLA president William Worsley said: "I feel sure Martin's senior management experience in industry will prove invaluable to the CLA."

The CLA is a 35,000-member organisation that has promoted land ownership and rural business in England for more than 100 years.

TURNOVER

Food franchisers see profits rise

FROZEN-food-maker and retailer Cook has found the right recipe for high street success – with profits up 40 per cent to £997,000.

The family-run firm, based in Sittingbourne, also recorded a huge increase in turnover, up 15.8 per cent to £22 million.

The company's move into franchising has underpinned growth, with nine new shops springing up across the country during the last financial year.

Shop number 50 will open in Bromley next month.

Founder and managing director Edward Perry said: "It's been a long, hard recession and a steep learning curve for us, but we are now coming out the other side with a much better business as a result.

"Positive momentum has carried over to the new financial year, and like-for-like sales are up 5.4 per cent during the past 10 weeks, showing an independent premium brand can operate successfully on the high street even in tough times."

MERGER

Estate agents form FoxWood

UP-MARKET estate agency Calcutt Maclean Wood has merged with Fox & Manwaring to form FoxWood Maclean.

The newly-formed business, based in Wye and Edenbridge, will offer a variety of property services including sales, lettings and management across Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Mark Weaver, of Fox & Manwaring, said: "We have been looking for another strong agency partner in Kent for some time. We can now offer our clients more than 150 years of experience in residential sales and lettings, commercial and retail to hands-on farming advice and professional managements."

Calcutt Maclean's co-founder Nigel Maclean said: "This is an exciting and positive evolution for us and we are looking forward to providing our tailor-made independent services across a wider area."

The new company is looking to recruit experienced professionals for a planned expansion of property teams and new offices.

EXPANSION

Marshland airport on the up

LYDD airport's expansion efforts have reached their first milestone – with the completion of phase one of the upgrades.

The Romney Marsh airport now boasts improved passenger check-in and security facilities, larger arrivals and baggage reclaim areas and a new departure lounge capable of accommodating up to 100 passengers an hour.

More than £30 million has now been spent on improving infrastructure and facilities at the airport.

Airport manager Bernard Daly said: "These improvements reinforce the airport's continuing commitment to growth, supporting increasing levels of business aviation, aircraft training, general aviation and cargo operations."

Lydd airport has lodged planning applications for a 294m runway extension plus a 150m starter extension and a new terminal capable of handling up to 500,000 passengers a year.

INSURANCE

Cutting cover a false economy

RECESSION-HIT firms should think twice before lowering their cover in a bid to cut costs, according to the Green Insurance Group.

Ian Gosling, director of the Sittingbourne-based insurers, said: "Many companies are looking at their costs and see insurance as 'dead money' – therefore to save on spending they are cutting their cover, but this is a false economy and could cause more problems than it solves in the event of a claim.

"We are looking to provide value for money to companies by searching the market for the most competitive price without compromising the cover and providing additional benefits such as three-year deals, interest-free instalments and low claims rebate options, each of which can help further reduce the cost."

The firm has also stepped up its Directors and Officers Liability Insurance to counter the rise in complaints against companies, which have broken through the 5,000-cases-per-year barrier.

Budget hotel chain brings 20 new jobs

TRAVELODGE has unveiled plans for a 60-bed hotel in Sittingbourne, creating 20 jobs.

The firm will pump £3.6 million into the Bell Road hotel and fill all the entry-level roles with long-term unemployed local residents, thanks to its partnership with Job Centre Plus.

The Kent investment comes as part of a £165m expansion which will see 22 hotels open across the UK.

Travelodge chief executive Guy Parsons said: "Despite the challenging consumer market, the demand for low-cost, good-quality hotels is a growing trend across the UK.

"We have been looking for some time to find the right site in Sittingbourne and we are delighted to be building at Bell Road. We will be offering rooms from £19, which will attract new business and leisure visitors to the town, helping to boost the local economy."

By the end of the year, Travelodge will have 540 hotels – equating to 40,000 rooms.

And with demand for branded budget hotels set to rise in the coming years, the company has increased its long-term growth targets.

Mr Parsons said: "Today's consumers want the certainty and services offered by branded budget hotel operators.

"They are moving away in significant numbers from the independent, unbranded accommodation sector, much of which is of poor quality.

"This trend is set to grow further and Travelodge is stepping in to give customers what they want – a good night's sleep at an affordable price in great locations. In line with this trend from consumers wanting budget accommodation, we have increased our growth targets and plan to have 1,100 hotels in Europe with more than 100,000 rooms by 2025."

Hotel industry consultant Melvin Gold said the budget end of the market was booming and had shown no signs of slowing down.

"The UK branded budget hotel sector has grown 10 per cent per annum in the past decade and exceeded 20 per cent in the prior decade," he said.

"It's the fastest-growing part of our industry and in the next two decades we can expect to see a UK budget hotel being built, opened or converted every five days."

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Changes to state pension prove a double whammy for women

Paul Harding, director of Chevening Financial, looks at the dark side of equality

I ALREADY feel a little apprehensive as a man writing about women's equality.

And I certainly have no desire to blunder into the politics of it all. But it's a subject that's hard to ignore in the financial world right now.

We recently had a European legal judgement that will make it harder for insurers to take gender into account when determining risk, and this week all the talk is of the increase in the age at which women will be entitled to the state pension.

As ever, there are different ways of looking at this pension-age equalisation.

On the one hand, ignoring individual cases, why shouldn't the age at which men and women receive a state benefit be the same? Indeed, the fact that women tend to live longer on average means they will probably still get more from their state pension than a man receiving the same amount.

On the other hand, the changes are being brought in within a relatively short time period in pension-planning terms, in around seven to eight years. This makes it difficult for those with firm retirement plans already worked out (and they ought to be by now!) to make up any shortfalls.

BALANCE: Paul Harding points out that there are good and bad sides to equality for women

There was, of course, never any prospect that the male retirement age would be lowered to create equality, but to the women most affected it must feel like a double whammy to find equalisation followed so closely by the need to also increase the (now) universal retirement age.

Perhaps those most affected should be given special assistance? The political machinations are no doubt ongoing, but with an increasingly cost-conscious Exchequer this is unlikely and so thousands of women could find they miss out on a year or two of happy retirement.

For those affected by this, a good starting point would be to consult an independent financial adviser, who should be able to determine to what degree they may lose out. They can then help with any new planning that may be required while there is still time to act.

Maybe on this occasion it seems that the price of equality is painfully high.

■ **Chevening Financial Ltd, Sevenoaks, telephone: 01959 565199**

Report shows red tape is tying up small businesses

By Simon Robinson
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CHAMBER of Commerce bosses have called on Government to strip away burdensome employment legislation in a bid to stimulate growth and job-creation.

The plea was made after a British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) report found that sole traders blamed red tape for not taking on additional staff.

One in three of the 1,000 businessmen surveyed said forthcoming pension requirements formed the biggest new-employment barrier; dismissal rules and sickness absence were joint second most troublesome hurdles at 27 per cent.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief executive Jo James said the Government should do more to encourage job creation, particularly at the sole trader and SME level.

"The Government expects the private sector to replace the jobs being lost in the public sector, and it is therefore vitally important that potential new employers are supported in every way possible," she said. "There is a wealth of aspiring small businesses that have the potential and ability to expand and employ, but I know from experience that they find the associated red tape and legislation very daunting. Anything that eases this burden will be most welcome.

"In the meantime, I strongly advise anybody considering employing people to consult the chamber for advice and support. To successfully expand your business and employ others can be extremely satisfying and, although there are problems, they are not insurmountable."

BCC director of policy Adam Marshall said: "In the UK, the proportion of enterprises with no employees has increased each year since 2004. There are currently more than 3.6 million sole traders, and while not all of these people want or have the potential to expand, some do.

LEGISLATION: Calls to cut the red-tape barrier

"Businesses consistently state that employment regulation prevents them from taking on more staff. In an environment of high unemployment and weak economic growth, the Government has to look at how it can free up these business-owners to grow their enterprises.

"New entrepreneurs are more ambitious. Exempting new businesses from 2012 pension reforms in their first three years or until they have more than 10 employees would remove one of the biggest barriers to job creation.

"In addition, sole traders tell us that a reduced rate of employer National Insurance contribution would encourage individuals starting out on their own to take on their first staff member.

"While the Government has created initiatives to reduce the burden of red tape, some of these measures don't go far enough. The NI holiday created for start-ups is being used by fewer than 3,000 firms, suggesting it needs to be more flexible to allow businesses to benefit.

"In addition, the Government's move to exempt micro businesses from new regulation fails to take into account the vast amount of existing legislation. We have to get conditions right for these business-owners if we want more jobs, greater investment and stronger economic growth across the UK."

BCC REPORT: KEY FINDINGS

- One in three survey respondents who wanted to grow their business said that exemptions from employment law would encourage them to take on their first staff member.
- One in two sole traders said a reduced or special rate of employer National Insurance contribution would incentivise them to hire.
- Only 6 per cent of businessmen were unemployed immediately before setting up on their own.
- Newer business-owners have greater ambitions to grow and create jobs. For those starting their own business, the ambition to take on staff decreases the longer a business has been in existence.

More than 45 per cent of sole traders operating for less than six months had ambitions to increase their staffing levels by half. This drops to a fifth among businesses that have been operating for more than three years.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Deaths a reminder of the need to take care

EIGHTEEN people in the South East lost their lives last year while working, figures show.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) data showed a total of 171 employees across Britain died at work during the year. This comes after the record low of 2009, in which 147 workers – employed or self-employed – died.

HSE chair Judith Hackitt said: "The increase in the number of deaths in the last year is disappointing after an all-time low last year.

"However, we must remember that we still have one of the lowest rates of fatal injury anywhere in Europe.

"The fact that 171 people failed to come home from work to their loved ones last year reminds us all of what we are here to do.

"It is a stark reminder of the need to ensure that health and safety remains focused on the real risks which exist in workplaces, not on trivia and pointless paperwork.

"We all have a role to play – employers, employees and regulators – and leadership is fundamental to maintaining and improving our performance even further. In a world of work which is constantly changing, we must all continue to review what we do and how we do it and strive to become even more effective at managing risks which cost lives."

Based on available data (2007), Britain continues to have the lowest rate of fatal injuries to workers among the five leading industrial nations in Europe – Germany, France, Spain and Italy are the other four – for a six-year period.

Airport hoping to benefit from the Olympics effect

BIGGIN Hill bosses have submitted a revised application to Bromley Council to extend operating hours during the 2012 Olympics.

The airport has reined in its original request after consulting neighbours.

The latest application, if rubber-stamped by council chiefs, will see arrivals land from 6.30am and departures take off until 10pm during the peak weekdays.

Airport bosses have also asked for weekend and bank holiday operating hours to be extended.

Managing director Jenny Munro said: "Having listened carefully and responded to the concerns of our neighbours, we believe this new plan represents a constructive way forward.

"It is a significantly different plan and, if approved, would demonstrate that London Biggin Hill Airport is willing to support the national effort being made to welcome international visitors.

"Equally, and as important, the heritage of the Games has the potential to boost business opportunities and to bring in new jobs."

Book tells us all how to make our own luck

ENTREPRENEUR Matt Kinsella has come a long way in the last 14 years.

The Whitstable-born businessman has started a number of IT companies and now invests in land and property.

What makes the 33-year-old's achievements more impressive is that at 19 he was living in a hostel for homeless teenagers. Since turning his life around, Kinsella has listened to people telling him how lucky he was – something he found hard to swallow.

Ever the entrepreneur, he decided that if this is what people perceived to be 'luck' then he could teach them how to be lucky by writing a book.

"I wanted to help people see that anyone can create opportunities and make things happen if they really want to," said Kinsella. "This book tells my story and shows people how they can do it, too."

How To Be Lucky is available via Lulu.com.

A percentage of all sales will go to select charities, including homeless organisations and a microfinance charity that lends money to people in deprived countries to assist them in setting up in business.

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Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Minister says – we'll get you back to work

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE Government has refuted criticism that its new Work Programme aimed at helping people back into employment could be doomed to fail in some areas.

Under the new scheme that began last month, approved providers – mostly private companies – will try to find jobs for benefits claimants on a payment-by-results basis.

According to a study by the Work Foundation think tank, there is a danger contractors will cherry-pick parts of the country where they are more likely to get results. This would then leave places like Thanet, which has 44 benefits claimants for every one job advertised, out in the cold.

But Tory employment minister Chris Grayling has rejected the criticism.

He said: "Private and voluntary sector organisations will have the freedom to create the support that works locally for them.

"In return these providers will be paid by results, with higher rewards for getting the hardest to help off benefits, into work and staying in work.

"The Work Programme is a completely new approach and is a huge milestone in the delivery of the Government's radical welfare reforms.

"In Kent there are currently more than 3,900 people who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than a year.

"Now they will get the tailored and personalised support they need to get into work as part of the biggest shake-up of the welfare system in a generation."

Jobseekers over 25 become eligible for help through the Work Programme after a year, and under-25s after nine months. Some younger people in certain circumstances, like young offenders, will be eligible after a shorter period of time.

Mr Grayling said: "Thousands of people in Kent have been left to languish on benefits over the years, without the support they need and deserve.

"They may feel they have little to offer and the only option is to remain on benefits, but I know many of them want to return to work and now they will have the help they need to do so.

"Organisations in Kent will be able to use their local expertise and knowledge to help people with real difficulties get back to work rather than having to follow a strict national structure."

There are currently almost 4,400 job vacancies available through Jobcentre Plus alone in Kent, and Mr Grayling said the Government was working with private enterprise to continue to create job opportunities in every community.

He added: "Some of the people claiming long-term benefits will be too sick or disabled to have a realistic chance of returning to work, and they will continue to receive our unconditional support.

"Our reforms are not about forcing people back to work if they are unable to do so.

"But every group I have met that works with disabled people says that far more of them want to be in mainstream employment."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.

ON THE DOLE: The Work Programme aims to help people back into employment

Jobs fair returns due to great start

A SECOND employment fair is being planned for Margate following the success of the first.

More than 400 people attended the New You Resolutions event in April, which was organised by Employ Thanet in partnership with Thanet's Gateway Plus and Jobcentre Plus.

Statistics compiled since the fair reveal that almost 20 per cent have gone on to find jobs.

The all-day event was attended by 12 employers including Marks & Spencer, Premier Inn, McDonald's and the Army, along with other organisations including Thanet College, Next Steps and Connexions.

A follow-up event is due to take place at the Gateway Plus in the autumn.

Thanet council cabinet member for partnerships Cllr Alasdair Bruce said: "The success we've seen from our first employment fair was nothing less than stunning, and to learn that so many people who attended have since found jobs is excellent news.

"Despite the tough times we find ourselves in, there are clearly still positions to be filled."

Civil service eyes future workforce

YOUNG people learned more about the civil service at an event designed to attract students to the Fast Stream graduate recruitment programme.

The roadshow was organised by the Bexley Education Improvement Partnership and Bexley Aimhigher, and was held at Normandy Primary School with youngsters attending from across the borough.

A survey afterwards revealed that 61 per cent of students would consider a career in the civil service, and 94 per cent said the event had made them more likely to go to university.

Bexley council cabinet member for education Cllr John Fuller said: "The event was aimed at inspiring students and encouraging them to aim higher, and it's certainly done that.

"It's not only raised our students' awareness of careers within the civil service and introduced them to the graduate recruitment programme, but motivated them to aim for a place at university too."

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Creativity alive and well as UCA students continue to find careers

GRADUATE employment levels at the University for the Creative Arts have risen to an all-time high.

A national survey found that 90 per cent of all full-time UCA undergraduates who completed their studies in 2009-10 were in employment or further education six months after graduation.

Overall the university's unemployment figure fell to 8.6 per cent compared to 15.6 per cent in 2009, despite the national average doubling to about 20 per cent during the recession.

Careers service manager Paula Clark said: "The careers service has worked closely with academics to ensure UCA graduates leave university with excellent employment prospects.

"In particular, the participation of students and new graduates in internships, including UCA's own internship scheme, has led to more graduates securing permanent positions within the creative sector."

UCA has five campuses – including in Canterbury, Rochester and Maidstone – which are home to more than 7,000 students from more than 70 countries.

In recent years graduates have gone on to work for local theatres, galleries and well-known brand names including Karen Millen, Gap, Ralph Lauren, Ted Baker, Arcadia and the BBC. About 12 per cent of graduates have also set up their own businesses.

Ritz chef wins award for VQ success story

A YOUNG chef has been named the regional Vocational Qualification (VQ) Learner of the Year.

Adam Smith, 23, from Orpington, Bromley, was selected as a stand-out winner from about 200 applicants after impressing a panel of education experts with his varied achievements across the hospitality sector.

Starting out at the Birmingham College of Food and Tourism, Adam undertook an NVQ Level 1 and 2 in food preparation and cooking.

He impressed his tutors so much that a senior lecturer recommended him to the executive chef at the Ritz, John Williams, who offered the young talent a coveted position there as chef.

Adam has since been promoted to premier sous chef – a job usually held by someone at least 10 years his senior – and also picked up a gold medal for cooking at the World Skills 2009 competition.

His Learner of the Year crown was handed to him as part of VQ Day, which was led by the independent education foundation Edge.

Chief executive Peter Mitchell said: "We believe every young person should be given the opportunity to succeed with access to practical and vocational learning as well as academic study, and those who choose to do so should have their achievements celebrated.

"With the Government showing increasing support for vocational pathways, the tide is turning in our favour.

"Vocational qualifications have never been more important to the economy and the individual; they deliver the trained, talented employees businesses are crying out for and ensure young people have the skills needed to succeed in work and life."

TALENT: VQ Learner of the Year Adam Smith

Last March a Government-commissioned review of vocational training by education expert Professor Alison Wolf recognised Kent's training centres as "beacons of excellence" that ensure young people can access the specialist programmes they want.

There are currently a number of stand – alone vocational centres across the county.

Carbon footprint plan leaves mark on judges as students land award

ECO-FRIENDLY students from Canterbury's Chaucer Technology School won a competition for their plans to cut the school's carbon footprint by half.

The youngsters picked up the Frank Manning award for "going the extra mile" at the recent Engineering Education Scheme event held at the University of Kent.

Consisting of students Phil Clark, Louise Reade, Chantelle Martin and Libby Norton, the Chaucer team finished ahead of several top independent and grammar schools to take the prize.

The challenge was set by engineers at Cummins Power Generation, of which Mark Bargent is the applied technology manager.

He said: "I was extremely impressed with their project findings and recommendations

"They did both the school and themselves proud, and it was an absolute success for all.

"It was a truly wonderful sight to see their faces, and indeed their teachers', when they were announced as winners of the Frank Manning trophy for special achievement.

"It's also great to be part of an industry/academic partnership that will deliver so much to the children, school and environment all at the same time, as well as our own staff."

The students have now applied for funding to implement their proposals.

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Chair - Ashford Mediation Service

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If you would like to have an informal discussion with the outgoing Chair, please contact **Robert Gordon-James** on **01580 292439**.

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We require a qualified High Intensity Therapist to join our Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service within the Thanet PTP team. You will be providing interventions for a range of common mental health problems. You must be experienced in delivering CBT and other NICE recommended interventions such as EMDR, IPT, (Behavioural) Couples Therapy for depression, etc. on a 1:1 or group basis, in line with the Skills for Health Psychological Competencies Maps. BABCP accreditation or working towards BABCP accreditation is essential. The full range of skills and competencies as laid out in the competence framework for CBT (Roth and Pilling 2007) is essential.

We also have a range of volunteer roles available across all PTP services. Volunteers support our work as part of their social activities and many take up paid positions within our organisation. We also welcome student placements of substantial duration.

For further information please contact Pavlo Kanellakis, IAPT Clinical Lead by emailing pkanellakis@kca.org.uk or Lynda Burr, Service Manager by emailing lburr@kca.org.uk

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference 773 in your application.

Closing date: Wednesday 20 July 2011.
Interview date: TBC.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all.
Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

Progressive, Responsive, Effective

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

KCA UK

Lecturer in Electrical Installation and Environmental Technology

Salary £22,518 - £33,087 p.a. Full time

At K College, we are committed to providing an outstanding learning environment as we support our students to achieve their full potential. As part of our ambitious team, you will train the next generation of skilled tradespeople by delivering C&G 2330 courses at Levels 2 and 3. We also need you to take a lead role in the development of programmes related to new environmental technologies.

With a teaching qualification and sound experience of working with post-16 students, you must bring the proven ability to teach people at various levels of ability. Your practical background should include both industrial and commercial installation, while strong IT skills and a good knowledge of environmental technologies are also important. In addition, you will have experience of designing relevant courses.

This role is predominately based at Ashford but may also require travel to all K College sites, in addition to events and meetings.

Should you wish to find out more about this role, applications packs are available online on the College website: www.kcollege.ac.uk

Alternatively you may apply by calling 01303 858373 (24 hour answer-phone) or emailing humanresources@kcollege.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is 12 noon on Tuesday 12th July 2011. Please quote ref: T 1492.

K COLLEGE

Please return completed application forms to humanresources@kcollege.ac.uk or by post to:

**HR Department
K College
Shorncliffe Road
Folkestone
Kent CT20 2TZ**

matrix | POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE | INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

This College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our users and expects all staff to share this commitment, in order for all to achieve their full potential. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check and to provide proof of their right to work in the UK.

K COLLEGE

Here at K College we provide a range of programmes, from five campuses in Ashford, Dover, Folkestone, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

We have over 19,000 full and part-time Further Education students on courses from Foundation Level to Level 3 in a wide range of subject areas including A-Levels and Apprenticeships; we are also proud to offer them the opportunity of progression routes onto Higher Education programmes.

Ready for the next academic year we have lots of exciting opportunities:

Lecturing - full time, part time or variable
Curriculum Support - Guidance & Advice and Learner Support
Business Support - Administration, MIS and Exams
Management opportunities and lots more

To find out more, view our full list of opportunities and apply online, visit **www.kcollege.ac.uk**

matrix | INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Bethany Lodge Care Home, Eastbridge Rd, Dymchurch
Requires:

REGISTERED NURSE

For night duty 8pm to 8am to join our friendly and caring team in meeting the needs of our physically disabled adults. Good rates of pay and training opportunities.

Please contact: Paul Mills 01303 872289 for more information and an application form
Successful applicants will be required to undergo a CRB check

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JOB VACANCY

Pentland Homes Ltd require a full time
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
To be based at their Head Office just outside Folkestone

The ideal candidate will have a good knowledge of development, planning and construction processes and have a degree in a relevant related subject.

Good IT skills are essential as is a full driving licence.

We are looking for an organised person who can communicate effectively, plan and prioritise their own workload with minimal supervision and who can work proactively as part of our team.

Salary package negotiable depending on experience

Please apply in writing ONLY enclosing C.V. to:-
Mrs Kay Martin Pentland Homes Limited, The Estate Office, Etchinghill Golf, Etchinghill, Folkestone, Kent CT18 8FA

Closing date for applications **Friday 12th August 2011**

Vacancies at Stagecoach East Kent

Skilled PSV / HGV Shift Fitter (Dover & Folkestone depots)
Closing Date: Friday 15th July 2011

We have vacancies for permanent full time SKILLED SHIFT FITTERS at our Dover and Folkestone Depots.

Reliability, flexibility and initiative are key attributes in order to meet the changing needs of our business.

Working as a shift fitter you will be working a four-man rotating shift rota, five out of seven days on an early, day and late pattern between the hours of 0600 and 0030.

Applicants must have served a recognised apprenticeship as a fitter/ mechanic and hold NVQ level 3 or equivalent qualifications in Heavy Vehicle Maintenance. Preference will be given to someone with PSV or HGV experience, especially on Volvo, Scania and MAN.

Possession of a full UK Driving license is required and holding a PCV License would be an advantage, however, training can be provided.

The rewards include:-
- Competitive Pay Rates.
- Guaranteed 39 Hours per week.
- Free travel on most Stagecoach services.
- Four weeks annual leave (+ bank holidays)
- Pension scheme (after qualifying period).

For further information for either position contact:
Harry Reid, Engineering Manager
Stagecoach in East Kent, Menzies Road, Dover, Kent, CT16 3NJ
henry.reid@stagecoachbus.com

Committed to Equal Opportunities
Stagecoach
greener smarter travel

Porsche Centre Tonbridge

Vehicle Technician

We are looking to recruit an experienced and qualified Vehicle Technician to join our Service Team. To be considered for the role you must be apprentice trained and qualified to NVQ level 3 in Light Vehicle Mechanical, Maintenance & Repair or GNVQ equivalent. The ideal candidate will possess the ability to tackle the wide range of work that enters our workshop. You must be a team player with good communication skills and hold a full, clean driving licence. Most importantly, you must be committed to providing the very best in customer care. Porsche training will be given.

Receptionist (part-time)

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and confident receptionist to work at our Porsche Centre in Tonbridge. As the first point of contact, you will need to have an excellent telephone manner, be of smart appearance and enjoy talking to customers and making them feel welcome. The ideal candidate must have outstanding communication, organisation and interpersonal skills with an excellent attention to detail and a flexible approach to work. The position is for Saturday 9am – 5pm.

If you would like to develop your career further with Porsche Centre Tonbridge please send your CV and cover letter by 22 July 2011 to Sharon Mallin at sharon.mallin@porschetonbridge.co.uk or Porsche Centre Tonbridge, Brook Farm, Five Oak Green Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0QN.

THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site and a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Management Accountant

Full time • Closing date for applications - 15 July 2011

To effectively organise and lead the finance department by providing professional leadership in facilitating the delivery of a high quality service to the Board, Managers and customers.
Qualified ACCA required

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Di Daw - 01843 234555

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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pepenbury
fulfilling potential
changing lives

Aporns Day Services Pembury

comprises a dedicated team which provides opportunities for people with learning disabilities to enjoy meaningful activities, stimulating projects and training for life skills. As a result of further reorganisation we require:

Day Services Support Worker (with music skills)

37.5 hours a week on a flexible basis – Monday to Friday. As part of the role, the successful candidate will be able to lead music sessions and assist in the Sensory Rooms. Hourly rate £6.56 but enhancements considered for those with appropriate experience and qualifications. Experience of working with people with complex needs and who present challenging behaviours is required.

Horticultural Support Worker

Horticultural / gardening experience required. 37.5 hours a week on a flexible basis – Monday to Friday. Hourly rate £6.56 but enhancements considered for those with appropriate experience and qualifications. Experience of working with people with complex needs and who present challenging behaviours is required.

Community Support Workers – MOST (Paddock Wood)

Full current driving licence and access to a vehicle for work purposes is essential. A mileage allowance is payable. Hourly rate from £7.30 - £7.70 dependent on experience and qualifications (includes 50p per hour mobility enhancement).

Application forms for all positions above can be obtained from the HR Dept on 01892 822168
or reception@pepenbury.info or download from www.pepenbury.info

All positions are subject to enhanced clearance from the CRB & ISA Regulars
We offer all staff good working conditions and excellent training opportunities
Registered Charity No. 307694

We are looking for the following two positions.

credocare

Supervising Social Worker

To supervise the work of a case file of foster carers on behalf of the agency

KEY SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS
The candidate must have DipSW or equivalent and registered with GSCC. Must have good communication and assessment skills and experience of working with looked after children and supervising foster carers. Also, to be able to prepare reports and child and foster carer assessments. Must be able to drive and have use of a car and to have basic IT skills.

Salary Scale: £30K to £35K depending on experience or qualifications
Full time 37.5 hours per week
Benefits: Car allowance, enhancement for Out of Hours, Work Mobile Phone and Laptop
Work base: Head Office Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent
Satellite Office Tonbridge, Kent

Fostering Manager Designate

Supervision of Social Work and support staff

KEY SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS
The candidate must have CQSW or DipSW and two years post qualifying experience. Must also be registered with GSCC. Also good communication and assessment skills and experience of supervising social work staff and working with looked after children. Must also be able to prepare reports. Full Driving Licence and have good IT skills.

Salary Scale: £28K to £45K depending on experience or qualifications
Full time 37.5 hours per week
Benefits: Car allowance, enhancement for Out of Hours
Work base: Head Office Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent

For both positions, please contact
David Burton 01797 322226 d.burton@credocare.co.uk or
June Stone 01797 322226 j.stone@credocare.co.uk

Part-time PA/Administrator

We are looking for an adaptable worker with various skills, including marketing, possibly someone returning to work, to assist with the running of a group of companies in Birchington.

You should be fully computer-literate, with office and database experience, also confident enough to work with figures.

The post would suit a multi-skilled administrator with an enthusiastic approach. Hours flexible.

Enquiries with CV to tobymarsh@live.co.uk

PACKER REQUIRED

FOR NORTHFLEET BASED COMPANY
Full time Mon-Friday, no previous experience required as full training will be given.
Apply to: sales@tube-gear.com
or in writing to:
Tube Gear Ltd
Unit B1 Springhead Enterprise Park
Springhead Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8HB

CHEF

required to work in busy kitchen at restaurant pub in the Whitstable/Tankerton area. Need to have knowledge of home cooked foods and be able to work weekend and split shifts.

For further details please ring: 01227 272008

HGV 1 DRIVERS

REQUIRED
FLEXI HOURS. PERMANENT POSITION
VARIETY OF WORK.
MJD GROUP OF COMPANIES
CALL ADRIAN OR STEPHEN ON 01322 370700

St Nicholas-at-Wade & Sarre Parish Council (Thanet)

The Parish Council wishes to appoint a local, part-time, home-based

PARISH CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

A Job Description and Person Specification can be downloaded from the council's website at www.kentparishes.gov.uk or from the present Clerk, Andrew Forrest on 07950 204171 or andrewpforrest@btinternet.com.
To apply, send a CV and covering letter explaining how you meet the requirements of the post to the Clerk by Friday, 29th July 2011.
Interviews will be held on Saturday, 13th August 2011

Business Development Manager

Currently seeking dynamic and organised sales professionals to develop and secure new business whilst generating sales opportunities in line with Company strategy. Industry experience / knowledge of the uPVC window and building materials sector is highly advantageous. Competitive Salary, Company Car, Laptop and Mobile Phone will be provided.

Please forward your CV and covering letter to recruitment@eurocell.co.uk FAO Karen Freeman

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BED/FURNITURE RETAIL SALESPERSON

required for our Beds Direct Margate store. Sales experience essential. Good pay package.

For interview phone Beds Direct on 01634 844182

BEDS DIRECT
GUARANTEED SAME DAY DELIVERY

Lottery

We need you!!

- Would you like to earn some extra cash and help raise money for Pilgrims Hospices?
- Flexible hours to suit you.
- We are looking for individuals to collect membership subscriptions from already establised rounds in parts of East Kent.
- Canvassers also required in some areas to gain new Lottery members.
- Self-employed position.
- Standard CRB discloure may be required for successful applicants.

Please call Shiralee on 01227 379741 for further details

MACHINE TOOL FITTER/MACHINIST

Good all round experience required in undertaking the manufacture / assembly of special purpose machines / fixtures. Some degree of industrial electrical installation experience would be a distinct advantage.

Please send CV to:- Interactive Manufacturing Ltd.
28 Joseph Wilson Industrial Estate,
Millstrood Road, Whitstable, Kent CT35 3PS

Charlier Construction Ltd

BRICKLAYER & PAINTERS

Qualified tradesmen with sound working knowledge of their trade required immediately. Own transport. CSCS card holders will have an advantage. Opportunity for future advancement to site foreman position for suitable applicants.
We are an equal opportunities employer.

Applications to: email@charlierconstruction.com
Further information ring 01303 268211

Are you looking for a new challenge?

BBA Reman is currently recruiting a

Management Accountant

to join our fast-moving, successful company at their head office in Rochester, Kent. Candidates must have experience with UK GAAP and accruals accounting, experience of P&L down to a bookkeeping level, understanding of VAT procedures (including cross-border) and Sage Line 50. You will have the chance to own your P&L and make quick and salient recommendations to business unit managers.

Please send your CV through to careers@bba-reman.com

Community Nursing Care Agency are now recruiting

Male & Female for specialist 1-1 community team supporting children and adults in the community with complex needs

Must have experience in working with people using the principles of positive behaviours support

For more information or to send your details please contact Zoe
zoe@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk
01233 619530

Assistant Engineer

Salary up to £24,072 pa plus lease car

An exciting opportunity has arisen in the Engineering Services' Section of Ashford Borough Council for a qualified Assistant Engineer.

Working as part of a small team, you'll be good at using CAD and GIS to design and execute highway-related projects, including writing and implementing TROs and programmed maintenance schemes for on and off-street parking.

For an informal discussion about this role, please contact Ray Wilkinson, Engineering Services Manager, on 01233 330299.

For an application form and further details, please e-mail recruitment@ashford.gov.uk **or you can download details from the jobs page of our website: www.ashford.gov.uk**

CLOSING DATE: Midday, Friday, 15th July 2011

Listening, Learning, Leading

DARTFORD

ORCHARD

The Orchard Theatre, part of HQ Theatres, stages a wide range of touring theatre and entertainment, alongside its hospitality programme.

Press & Publicity Officer

Salary: £18,000 per annum

Seeking an imaginative, commercially astute, press and marketing strategist to assist in the marketing and sales of all aspects of this busy 956 seat venue and its programme. Press experience essential. Deadline: **Monday 11 July 2011.**

Part Time Marketing Internship

A varied role that will provide the successful applicant with a strong knowledge of the marketing operations involved in maintaining and developing a thriving theatre. Deadline: **Monday 25 July 2011.**

To apply for either post please send your covering letter and CV to **sbowles@orchardtheatre.co.uk**

For further details please visit
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

HORNBY

Product Designer

Our impressive brand portfolio encompasses **Hornby** railways, **Scalextric** slot car racing, **Airfix** models and **Corgi** diecast, along with a number of internationally renowned railway brands, which have increased the Company's standing within the European markets and across the world.

Our Development Department has expanded in recent years to enable Hornby to design a range of products based upon many international licensed brands which include Disney/Pixar, BMW and Ford, along with the **London Olympics 2012** and **Paralympic Games**.

The successful candidate will be CAD literate and **must** have previous experience of Pro Engineer. An aptitude towards fine detail in design, along with an understanding of the principles of injection mould tool destign, with both solid and surface modelling experience would be an advantage.

The chosen individual will be a good team player who will be dedicated to designing scale replicas of some of the most inspiring and exciting vehicles on the road, rail, sea or air.

Our ideal candidate should be educated to Degree level in a suitable design or engineering discipline, although we are happy to receive applications from individuals who have served an engineering/toolmaking apprenticeship who have the relevant product design experience required for the post.

If you believe that you fit the above specification and have Pro Engineer experience, please write giving details of current remuneration package, enclosing your covering letter and CV to:

Julie Jefferys
Hornby
Westwood, Margate, Kent CT9 4JX
julie.jefferys@hornby.com
Fax: 01843 233509
Closing date for applications Friday 15th July 2011

HORNBY · Scalextric · Airfix · Humbrol · CORGI

TELESALES EXECUTIVES x5 Ashford

As a skilled negotiator, you will ensure that calls lead to opportunities by building relationships to gain new business and retain existing clients, ensuring that sales are managed from contact to contract and beyond!

Interviews are being held immediately!!

This is an important role and working amongst a bustling sales office, you are required to sell across a broad portfolio ensuring targets and company standards are achieved.

A keen eye for detail, professional attitude, ability to work to deadlines, persistence displayed as enthusiasm, determination to hit targets and goals…will all ensure your success within this business.
Own transport is essential.

TELESALES MANAGER x1 Ashford

Working for a well established Kent advertising business where your important and leading role within this company is to inspire, coach and motivate this small and professional telesales team.

You will drive innovation and create an environment of fun but continuous improvement and development to grow revenues and exceed targets.

The perfect candidate will have a media background who can demonstrate experience of managing and developing a sales team, working to budgets and building a dynamic sales force. This is a new opportunity and we welcome applicants with the above experience to apply.

TRAINEE RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT x1 Ashford

As part of StaffPro's expansion, we are looking to recruit a resourcer to assist our Recruitment Specialist in sourcing suitable candidates for positions, from job boards, social media sites, ad response and contacting to discuss our roles.

In addition, you will also get involved with telephone marketing, advertising, research, administration and registering candidates. This role will rapidly develop into a consultant position and training will be provided.

We are looking for someone who has sales and administration experience, who wants a career in Recruitment and has the drive and dedication to get the job done, quickly but effectively. Candidates must be tenacious and organised! **Own transport is essential.**

FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE x1 Kent

My client is looking for an experienced Field Sales Executive to sell across an impressive portfolio and you are expected to sell solutions both face to face and over the telephone ensuring targets, company expectations and most of all clients needs are met.

When you are in the office you will be joined with a bustling and 'fun' sales environment who are competitive and enjoy a challenge.

You need to be organised, self dependant, target motivated and tenacious. So if you have got what it takes to join my client winning new and retaining existing business, add to the 'fun' and increasing revenue, apply today and don't miss out!

All of the above positions come with attractive salaries, bonuses and benefits.

StaffPro is acting as a recruitment business in relation to these roles.

Please email your CV and salary expectations on your CV to leah@staff-pro.co.uk today!

staffpro
Delivering professional staff on time, every time

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Maidstone
£30,000 - £40,000 Basic + Bonus + Benefits

We are looking for an experienced Account Executive with an Insurance background to understand new and existing Client's business and their approach to insurance and risk management to design and administer insurance solutions.

You are responsible for carrying out 'Client Relationship Management' including visits for existing clients to ensure information of their insurance programmes is collated in a timely, technically accurate and cost effective manner.

In addition, you are required to seek new business whilst maintaining and expanding client accounts, to include additional covers and to produce leads for the new business sales team.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

Maidstone
£30,000 - £40,000 Basic + Bonus + Benefits

As a new and very challenging role, we are looking for a New Business Insurance Sales Executive, with Insurance experience, to join our client in developing new accounts.

Management of your Client's needs is paramount and you must also have the ability to ensure collection of premiums from clients is carried out as well as, understanding new Client's business and their approach to insurance and risk management and to design and administer a tailored insurance solution.

All of the above positions come with attractive salaries, bonuses and benefits.

StaffPro is acting as a recruitment business in relation to these roles.

Please email your CV and salary expectations on your CV to leah@staff-pro.co.uk today!

staffpro

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in Medway is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Personal Tutor ***Ref: M0582***

29.6 hours per week
Fixed Term Maternity Cover Contract
Salary: £20,724 - £26,702 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway

As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity

Closing date: Wednesday 13 July 2011

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

Find teaching jobs online

Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

(A Foundation Technology College)
Arethusa Rd, Rochester, Kent ME1 2UW
Headteacher: Mr P Jackson, BSc
Tel: 01634 844809 Fax: 01634 818385
Email: office@thomasaveling.co.uk Website: www.thomasaveling.co.uk/jobs

Technician – Design Technology Department

Part Time - negotiable based upon 25 hours per week; preferably across 5 days/week; Term time only. Required to start September 2011

Some flexibility of actual working hours may be required

Salary: NJC Scale D2 point 12 – Point 21 pro-rata (presently £15,039 - £19,126 fte)

A rewarding opportunity has arisen for a pro-active, organised and self-motivated person with a creative flair to join this popular secondary school. Applicants should have a working knowledge of wood, metals and plastics (working knowledge of CAD/CAM equipment mechanical router and laser cutter would be an advantage). Prospective candidates will be required to provide support within the classroom with demonstrations and to provide technical support. Additional duties will include supporting the department in preparation of materials, ordering stock and maintenance of light machinery and equipment.

Prospective candidates should be able to work with pace and diligence and be capable of working under pressure on their own initiative as required.

Please visit www.thomasaveling.co.uk for further details of the post and an application form.

Completed applications to be sent to Mr S Rayner, Finance & Business Manager to the school address or by e-mail to srayner@thomasaveling.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 13th July 2011

Short-listed candidates only will be contacted for interview which will take placeplace w/c 18th July 2011

The Thomas Aveling School is: - an Equal opportunities Employer. - committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students and an enhanced CRB check will be required for all successful applicants.

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

HEAD OF TRANSITION AND INTEGRATION

37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR • SALARY : £37,505 - £43,336

The college is looking to recruit a Head of Transition and Integration to be responsible for leading the Transition and Integration Division and the successful implementation of the College's foundation learning provision including 14-16 and alternative curriculum.

LECTURER IN AIR CABIN CREW

28 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR • SALARY: £19,365 - £22,858

An new position is available for the post of Lecturer in Air Cabin Crew. The successful applicant will be expected to raise aspirations, develop skills and deliver quality across a range of courses in the Sports and Fitness Programme Area.

JOBS BROKER
(FIXED TERM UNTIL 31 JULY 2012)

SALARY: £22,289 - £26,408

The college is looking to recruit to the above post to provide a job brokerage function for projects in the College.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: HET001

Closing date for the above posts: **: 13 July 2011**

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

Valence School

Westerham Road, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN Tel:- 01959 567841 Fax: 01959-565046
e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk; www.valenceschool.com

HEAD OF RESIDENTIAL CARE
FULL TIME
37 plus 4 hours per week during school terms and senior on call duties required

Valence School requires an experienced manager to lead, develop and maintain the care and social development of residential students. We seek a professional who has excellent interpersonal and communication skills and is a clear and outcome-focused thinker with sound judgement, consistently working to very high standards. The successful candidate will have a social work degree or diploma, and/or Registered Manager qualification, with relevant experience working in a residential educational or care setting with children.

£30,220 to £35,724 plus on call payments. Final salary pension.

Valence School is a Kent County Council all age residential and day school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

Valence School is a supportive environment and a rewarding place to work. Every member of staff participates in enabling the students to learn and to aspire to achieve meaningful independence.

Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check.

For further information and an application form, please contact the HR Department.

Please note the closing date for applications Friday 15 July 2011. Interviews will be held on Thursday 8 September 2011. Informal visits are welcomed.

CUSTOMER CONTACT OFFICERS

Salary £16,041 to £21,642 (pro rata for part time)

5xFull time and 1xPart time (25 hours)

We are looking for enthusiastic, customer-focused individuals with excellent customer service skills to work within the Customer Contact Team. If you want to be a part of Shepway District Council's drive to improve its service to customers this could be the opportunity you are looking for.

Working within our Customer Contact Team, we have a number of roles dealing with the administration and payment of Housing and Council Tax Benefit and the administration and collection of Council Tax. Your duties will include dealing with customers both face-to-face and over the telephone, processing work at the first point of contact wherever possible. The legislation is very complex and subject to almost continual change and this is one factor that makes the work so demanding, but equally very rewarding. You will be given intensive training to develop your knowledge in this challenging role.

As the public face of the Council, the service you provide will directly affect what our local residents think about us.

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity and a commitment for continuous improvement, a passion for customer service and a flexible approach are fundamental requirements of the role.

The post requires the following:

- 5 GCSE's at grade C or above, including Maths and English, or relevant experience.
- The ability to analyse and retain information.
- Good communication skills.
- Good basic office skills
- A commitment to delivering a customer-focused service

The closing date for completed application forms is:

Wednesday 20th July 2011

Interview date: To be confirmed

For application details, please visit www.shepway.gov.uk or to request an application pack, please contact email **hrpartnership@dover.gov.uk** or phone **01304 872799**

Folkestone

Teachers Needed
Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✔ Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- ✔ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- ✔ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✔ Free use of resource centre
- ✔ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:

0800 731 6871

or email enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

CAPITA
EDUCATION RESOURCING
(Agy)

Committed to equal opportunities

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

We are seeking to appoint

Assessment & Performance Data Analyst

25 hours per week/term time only
Additional hours may be required for specific projects
Kent Scheme 5 Points 14-17 - £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.

To work as part of a team to support the accurate recording, reporting and analysis of pupils attainment data. Educated to at least A Level standard with a strong analytical ability and good knowledge of Excel.

Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ
email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01474 831020

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 18 July 2011

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR A GRADUATE WITH A SUITABLE DEGREE TO GAIN EXPERIENCE OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR

WELLNESS COACHES
REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition companylooking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.

01622 671716

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

PLUMBER / MECHANICAL ENGINEER

To work as part of the colleges in-house Facilities team, in addition to taking part in the colleges refurbishment programme.
The role will be across all the areas of the college and will involve interaction with college staff when required.

SALARY SCALE: £19,659 - £23,040 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

The programme will result in a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification providing an excellent gateway into the world of employment for 16 to 18 year olds.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052.

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 20th July 2011

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College is passionate about student success. We are seeking to appoint outstanding individuals to teach at our new campus in Medway.

Head of Management Information Services ***Ref: MIS0***

C50k per annum
Medway Campus

MidKent College is a large, successful College operating on two main sites in Medway and Maidstone. Our state-of-the-art Medway campus is next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College is training their soldiers under a 30 year contract.

We are looking for an experienced manager, ideally with experience of FE, to lead the MIS and examinations services to deliver industry leading performance in these important areas.

Reporting to the Director of Finance, you will be responsible for ensuring that the College is fully versed on changes to local, regional and national funding, as well as curriculum developments.

You will lead on data management and funding optimisation across the College's major funding streams, ensuring that curriculum performance is effectively planned and monitored.

Closing date: 12 noon, Monday 11 July 2011.
Interviews are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19 July 2011.

For an informal discussion or to arrange a visit to the College, please contact Ian Rule, Director of Finance on 01634 383167 or email ian.rule@midkent.ac.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

STONE BAY SCHOOL
70 Stone Road, Broadstairs Kent CT10 1EB
Email- office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk

RESIDENTIAL TEAM LEADER

SALARY £20,263 - £23,053 (KR7) PLUS WEEKEND ALLOWANCE
PERMANENT 52 WEEK POST INCLUDING ALTERNATE WEEKEND WORKING

Stone Bay School is a residential school for children aged 11-19 years with autism and associated learning difficulties. It provides a friendly and supportive environment for both students and staff.

You will assist in the overall management of the care staff in addition to the supervision of your own team. You will act as Key Worker for specified pupils, help staff to deal with the more complex child care issues and contribute to the formulation of care/development plans based on individual needs.

Previous employment within a school or social care setting is essential, with relevant leadership/management experience. A qualification at NVQ Level 3 or above is desirable, but not essential as training will be provided. You must be skilled in working with children and young people who present complex challenging behaviour and have a track record of proactive approaches to behaviour management.

Hours are on a split-shift basis: 7.30am - 10.30 am and 3.30pm - 10.30pm on the same day. There are 2 shifts on alternate weekends: 7.30am - 3.15pm and 2.45pm - 10.30pm.

Stone Bay School is committed to the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure and verification of the right to work in the UK

Please telephone 01843 863421, write or e-mail for an application form and job description from the main school office. Applications to be received by 15th July 2011.

Kent County Council is an equal opportunities employer

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/01738/HOUSE **Standen Barn Standen Street, Benenden**
- Replacement 3.5 bay garage with associated landscaping, new access gate and fencing to entrance, new hedge and access gate to driveway (LB)

11/01839/HOUSE **The Lodge Swaylands, Bidborough**
- Lean-to shed (LB)

11/01840/LBC **The Lodge Swaylands, Bidborough**
- Listed Building Consent - Lean-to shed (LB)

11/01699/FUL **Flat 1 North Wing Sissinghurst Castle, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Change of use of flat 1, North Range to provide offce accommdation for National Trust staff and volunteers, and minor alterations to the building (LB)

11/01807/FUL **Former Stable Block Adjacent To Castlemaine House Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Three-bedroom bungalow (LB)

11/01854/LBC **Strict Baptist Chapel Town Hill, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Extend brick on edge either side of steps, to extend area of victorian pavers at top of steps, to shorten railings and to make a paved circulation area on the north east all to the front of the chapel (LB)

11/01794/FUL **Longbrooks Farm Knowle Road, Paddock Wood**
- Barn 30m x 10m, 58% for storage of farm machinery and hay from the holding, 42% stables and equestrian. Sand school, 22m x 60m (PROW) (LB)

11/01795/FUL **Longbrooks Farm Knowle Road, Paddock Wood**
- New shared replacement drive, 3.7m wide, to access Longbrooks Farmhouse and Hawkbrand House (LB)

11/01884/FUL **47 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Widen existing dormer to front elevation from two light to three light width and replace second foor side window (CA)

11/01853/FUL **32 High Street Pembury, Pembury**
- Change of use from flats (C3) to accommodation for junior doctors and nurses (Sui Generis) with accompanying laundry building (CA) (LB)

11/01818/HOUSE **Little Sponden Sponden Lane, Sandhurst**
- Single-storey rear extension (LB)

11/01819/LBC **Little Sponden Sponden Lane, Sandhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Single-storey rear extension (LB)

11/01821/HOUSE **Old Chapel House Bodiam Road, Sandhurst**
- Single storey rear extension (LB)

11/01848/HOUSE **Bentham Hill Stables Stockland Green Road, Southborough North**
- Internal and external alterations, including 3 No dormer windows and conversion of existing garage (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 09 July 2011

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advdertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BISHOP

Lauren and Mark Bishop celebrate the birth of their son Donovan on 13th June, 2011. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure for ever.

DE LA HAYE

Elliot David James born on 28th June, 2011, weighing 7lb 3oz. Son to Charley De La Haye and Kai Tyrrell. Little brother to Megan.

DOWNTON

Peter and Rebecca are proud to announce the birth of their baby son Edward Frank Downton, born on 3rd June, 2011. Big sister Emma is delighted.

JEFFERYS

Andrew and Karen Jefferys are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Katherine Sophie Faith on 27th June, 2011, a baby sister to Joseph.

LONG

Simon and Gemma celebrate the birth of their son Ethan Matthew Thomas Long on 21st June, 2011, weighing 9lb.

DEATHS

FINCHAM

Ethel Doris Fincham passed away peacefully, after a brief illness, on 27th June, 2011. Sadly missed by family and friends.

GEE

Alan Gee of Newcastle Upon Tyne passed away peacefully on the 4th July, 2011. Loving Gramps to Daisy, Amelia and Alexander. Sorely missed by Kate and Lucy.

GLYNN

Patricia Mary Cecilia (nee Liddiard) died peacefully on 30th June, 2011. Beloved mother of Natasha and Jackie, dearest granny to Jacob and Georgina and a much loved sister. Funeral service on 6th July, 2011, at Our Lady Of Good Counsel Church, Hythe, at 10am. Family flowers. Donations to the Pilgrims Hospice, Ashford, Kent, or MacMillan Cancer Care, c/o Hambrook and Johns, Hythe.

WOOD

Dorothy Edna Wood, nee Baldock, on 3rd July, 2011, aged 86. Dearly loved mother of Michael, Nigel and Vanessa, grandmother of Maria, Lewis, Robert, Julian and Michael and great grandmother of Millie and Alfie. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium on Friday, 15th July, at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research.

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(4) or (5) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

KCC/TM/0280/2011 - Proposed development at Electricity Sub Station, Stangate Landfill Site, Mill Lane, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8RA

Infinis Plc is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for variation of condition 2 of planning permission TM/95/1698 to allow the retention and continued operation of the electricity sub-station associated with the Stangate Gas Utilisation Plant until 31 July 2025.

KCC/TM/0282/2011 – Proposed development at Gas Utilisation Plant, Stangate Landfill Site, Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8RA

Infinis Plc is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the retention of the Gas Utilisation Plant until 31 July 2025, the installation and operation of a Vykson landfill gas engine, low calorific flare, retention of site offices and landscaping.

You may view these applications at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 10 July 2011

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

HIGHWAYS

OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2011

The Open Golf Championship will take place this year in Sandwich between 10th and 17th July 2011.

Thousands of spectators are expected to attend the championship throughout the week, increasing to some 50,000 per day as the final match play approaches.

A multi-agency traffic plan will be in place during the event to enable the large volumes of visitors to get to and from the Golf course, whilst accommodating the needs of residents and businesses.

Please remember to plan additional time for any journeys, particularly during the peak hours of 7.00 - 11.00 am and 4.00 - 8.00 pm.

For further information, please see www.opengolfsandwich.co.uk

OPEN GOLF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Kent County Council has made Orders to introduce the following temporary restrictions for the safety of the public and to maintain a free flow of traffic during the Open Golf Championship.

These restrictions are made under The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991.

The Orders take effect on or after 12 July 2011, remain in force until 18 July 2011 and will cease to have effect on completion of the Open Golf Championship.

The roads affected and nature of the restrictions are as described below.

VARIOUS ROADS, SANDWICH (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

DEAL ROAD, SANDWICH
(shown on some maps as Dover Road)
All northbound traffic except permit holders will be prohibited, from the junction with Dover Road.

NEW STREET, SANDWICH
No Right Turn southbound from New Street into St Bart's Road, except buses & HGVs.

DELFSIDE, SANDWICH
Road closed to traffic at the junction with St Georges Road. (Access for residents only)

DOVER ROAD, SANDWICH
All traffic prohibited, except emergency vehicles, at the roundabout junction with the A256 and A258 - 'Water Gardens' Roundabout.

GALLIARD STREET, SANDWICH
No Entry southbound from Galliard Street into New Street, except buses, from 6.00 am until 10.00 pm

HIGH STREET, SANDWICH
Road closed between Strand Street and the Toll Bridge.

No Left Turn from High Street towards Ramsgate Road at the junction with The Quay from 6.00 am until 2.00 pm

Access to The Quay will be maintained.

MONKS WAY, SANDWICH
No Entry Sandwich-bound except buses and HGVs, from the exit of the second roundabout (by Pfizer's car park).

ST BART'S ROAD, SANDWICH
No Right Turn from St Bart's Road into Deal Road, except buses & HGVs, from 6.00 am until 10.00 pm

ST GEORGE'S ROAD, SANDWICH
No Right Turn from St George's Road into New Street, except buses & HGVs, between 6.00 am and 2.00 pm.

The following roads will become One Way only with the direction of traffic flowing towards the event in the morning and away from the event in the afternoons, known as 'Tidal Flow'

RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH
All southbound traffic prohibited except permit holders, from the junction with Willowbank.Will become one way only between the junctions with Willowbank and The High Street
6.00 am to 2.00 pm - southbound only
2.00 pm to 10.00 pm - northbound only

KNIGHTRIDER STREET, SANDWICH
Will become One Way only between the junctions with The Quay and Sandown Road
6.00 am to 2.00 pm - southbound only
2.00 pm to 10.00 pm - northbound only

SANDOWN ROAD, SANDWICH
Will become One Way only between the junctions with Knightrider Street and St George's Road
6.00 am to 2.00 pm - eastbound only
2.00 pm to 10.00 pm - westbound only

No Entry westbound on Sandown Road from a point immediately west of the junction with St George's Road from 6.00 am until 2.00 pm.

Afternoon only - No Entry from the junction with the western exit of the Green Car Park eastbound from 2.00 pm until 10.00 pm.

The junction with Manwood Road will be closed, with access to Manwood Road maintained from St George's Road.

UPPER STRAND STREET, SANDWICH
Will become One Way only between the junctions with High Street and Knightrider Street
6.00 am to 2.00 pm - eastbound only
2.00 pm to 10.00 pm - westbound only

VARIOUS ROADS, DEAL (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ETHELBERT ROAD, DEAL
Will be closed at junction with Golf Road. Residents advised to use Sandown Road for access.

GOLF ROAD, DEAL
All northbound traffic prohibited except permit holders, from the junction with Ethelbert Road.

Road closed immediately to the South of the junction with Godwyn Road.

The junction with Redhouse Wall will be closed. Residents of Redhouse Wall can access their properties via Royal Cinque Ports Visitor Car Park.

GOLF ROAD, DEAL / GUILFORD ROAD, SHOLDEN / ANCIENT HIGHWAY, WORTH
These roads will become One Way only, from a point immediately north of 138 Golf Road, including the entire length of Guilford Road and Ancient Highway to the junction with Waldershare Avenue
6.00am to 2.00pm - northbound only
2.00pm to 10.00pm - southbound only.

Cyclists and horse riders will be prohibited between 6.00 am and 10.00 pm on the sections of these roads described in the preceding paragraph.

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

VENSON ROAD, EASTRY - will be closed at the junction with the northbound carriageway of the A256 Dover Road.

The alternative routes are
Westbound via A256, Dover Road, Eastry and Pike Road.
Eastbound via Pike Road and Dover Road, Eastry

DOVER ROAD, TILMANSTONE - will be closed at the exit from the northbound carriageway of the A256 into Dover Road, except for bus access. Residents advised to access Dover Road at its junction with Barville Road.

KENNEL HILL, TILMANSTONE - the exit from Kennel Hill onto the northbound carriageway of the A256 closed between 6.00 am and 11.00 am. Residents advised to use Sandwich Road as diversion.

BARVILLE ROAD, WALDERSHARE - No Right Turn from Barville Road eastbound into the temporary Park and Ride site.

A256 DOVER ROAD & WHITFIELD BY-PASS, DOVER AREA (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

A temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph will be imposed on the A256 Dover Road and Whitfield By-pass, Sutton, Tilmanstone and Eastry, as described below.

On the northbound carriageway, from the junction with Sandwich Road, Whitfield to Eastry Roundabout.

On the southbound carriageway, from the junction with Eastry Roundabout to the roundabout junction with Boys Hill / Barville Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, DEAL AND SANDWICH (PARKING & WAITING RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

The existing waiting restrictions, loading restrictions and on-street parking in certain streets in Deal and Sandwich will be suspended or amended as follows.

There will be no waiting at any time and no loading or unloading between 7.00 am and 11.00 am and between 4.00 pm and 8.00 pm (except where otherwise stated) on the sections of roads shown below.

SANDWICH

DEAL ROAD – for its entire length - except Taxis when signs are on site identifying the exclusion zone.

ST GEORGE'S ROAD – for its entire length

ST GEORGE'S LEES – for its entire length

DELFSIDE – for its entire length

SANDOWN ROAD – for its entire length, with the exception of any bays with no signage

GUILFORD ROAD – for its entire length

KNIGHTRIDER STREET – from the junction with The Quay to the junction with Sandown Road

THE QUAY – for its entire length, with the exception of any bays with no signage

UPPER STRAND STREET – for its entire length

RAMSGATE ROAD – from its junction with the A256 to its junction with The Quay

MONKS WAY – for its entire length

STRAND STREET – for its entire length, with the exception of any bays with no signage

ASH ROAD – for its entire length

ST BART'S ROAD – from the junction with New Street to the eastern-most boundary of property no. 127

NEW STREET - from the junction with Deal Road to the junction with Galliard Street

No Waiting at any time and No Loading/Unloading (except buses) – between 6.00 am and 10.00 pm.

DEAL

THE MARINA, DEAL
East Side – from the junction with Godwyn Road to the junction with Albion Road
West Side – from the junction with Godwyn Road to the junction with Harold Road

GODWYN ROAD, DEAL
South Side – for its entire length
North Side – from the junction with Golf Road for a distance of 20 metres eastbound
North Side – from the junction with The Marina for a distance of 20 metres westbound

GOLF ROAD, DEAL – from the junction with Godwyn Road to its northernmost point

GUILFORD ROAD, SHOLDEN – for its entire length

ANCIENT HIGHWAY, WORTH – for its entire length

GUILFORD ROAD, WORTH – for its entire length

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

BEAVER ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beaver Road, Ashford, on or after 25 July 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Bond Road and Norman Road.

The alternative route is via Jemmett Road and Bond Road.

A28 CANTERBURY ROAD, GODMERSHAM (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during bridge strengthening works, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the A28 Canterbury Road, Godmersham, on or after 11 July 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The section of road affected is from a point approximately 680 metres south west of Godmersham Bridge extending north eastwards to a point north east of the junction with The Street, approximately 500 metres from Godmersham Bridge, as defined by signage.

This Order is in force when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

FINN FARM ROAD, KINGSNORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of urgent repairs to the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Finn Farm Road, Kingsnorth, on or after 28 July 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the west of the bridge over the A2070.

The alternative route is via Church Hill, Ashford Road, Hamstreet Road, Capel Road, Stone Cross Road, Ashford Road and Brockmans Lane.

THE STREET, MERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Mersham, on or after 28 July 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between A20 Hythe Road and Old Rectory Close.

The alternative route is via The Street, Bower Road, Station Road and A20 Hythe Road.

It is hoped the works will be completed in one day. If not, the road will be re-opened then closed the following day.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

CHURCH LANE, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Lane, Sturry, on or after 25 July 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in sections along its length.

There is no alternative route, as Church Lane is a No Through Road. Every effort will be made to maintain access for residents whenever it is safe to do so.

There will only be limited access to The Hamels, as it is also a No Through Road.

GILES LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Giles Lane, Canterbury, on or after 25 July 2011 for up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases from Gorsefield to the junction with University Road.

The alternative route is via A290 Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill, Whitstable Road, Forty Acres Road, Beaconsfield Road, St Stephen's Hill and Giles Lane.

GROVE ROAD, WICKHAMBREAUX (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new transformer and road crossing for a new electrical supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grove Road, Wickhambreaux, on or after 25 July 2011 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Nether Quaives and Kelsey Farms.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with The List and Green Lane.

The alternative routes are

North eastwards (towards Grove) via Wickham Court Lane, Hollybush Lane, Stodmarsh Road and Grove Road.

South westwards (towards Wickhambreaux) via Grove Road, The Street, Preston Lane, Preston Road, Preston Hill, High Street, Wingham, A257 Canterbury Road, Nargate Street and Wickham Road.

STUPPINGTON LANE & RENVILLE FARM ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to re-waterproof and resurface bridge decks over the A2, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stuppington Lane & Renville Farm Road, Canterbury, on or after 31 July 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

STUPPINGTON LANE, CANTERBURY will be closed from 31 July 2011 for up to 4 weeks.

The alternative route is via Merton Lane, B2068 Nackington Lane, Old Dover Road, Ethelbert Road and South Canterbury Road.

RENVILLE FARM ROAD, CANTERBURY will be closed from 31 July 2011 for up to 4 weeks.

The alternative route is via Renville Farm Road, A2050 New Dover Road, A2 New Dover Road on/off slip, Bifrons Hill, Bekesbourne Road and A2050 New Dover Road

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURNS) (A256 EYTHORNE AND TILMANSTONE) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER JUNE 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces no right turns from the A256 Dover Road at Eythorne and no right turns from the A256 Dover Road at Tilmanstone except for buses.

The Order was made on 29 June 2011 and came into force on 29 June 2011

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover and Sessions House Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

NAPIER ROAD & HOBART CRESCENT, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Napier Road & Hobart Crescent, Dover, on or after 11 July 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between 47 Hobart Crescent and 63 Napier Road.

The alternative route is via Hobart Crescent or Napier Road.

NAPIER ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Napier Road, Broadstairs, on or after 11 July 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 4.

The alternative route is via Church Street, Northdown Road and Magdala Road.

RUSHAM ROAD, WINGHAM & WATERWORKS HILL, LANGDON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rusham Road, Wingham & Waterworks Hill, Langdon, as shown below.

RUSHAM ROAD, WINGHAM will be closed between the junctions with Nash Road and Beaute Lane from 25 July 2011 for up to 4 days

The alternative route is via Nash Road, A257 Pedding Hill, A257 Roman Road and Beaute Lane

WATERWORKS HILL, LANGDON will be closed between the junctions with Forge Lane and Winkland Oaks Lane from 1 August 2011 for up to 2 days

The alternative route is via Forge Lane, Vale Road, Wingleton Lane and Winkland Oaks Lane

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THE KENT COUNTY

COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DISTRICT OF DOVER) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 6) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1, 2 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of this Order will be to introduce a prohibition of waiting at any time on the following lengths

PUDDING LANE On the eastern side from the junction with The Street for a distance of 29.5m in a southerly direction.

On the western side from the junction with The Street for a distance of 23.5m in a southerly direction.

FIVEWAYS RISE, DEAL On both sides from the junction with London Road for a distance of 10m in a south-westerly direction

DOVER ROAD, WALMER From a point 10m north east of the junction with Lawn Road for a distance of 5m

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, between 9.00am and 5.00pm and at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal open hours from 10 July 2011.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to The Transportation and Development Manager, East Kent Area, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by noon on 1 August 2011.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

FERGUSON AVENUE, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Ferguson Avenue, Gravesend for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 11th July 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 18 months. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate demolition works and construction of new buildings

HIGHWAYS - District of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING)

AMENDMENT 9

ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1 (1) 2 (1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1) 45, 46, 49, and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The Order will amend the Kent County Council (Borough of Maidstone) Waiting Restrictions Consolidation 2008 Order by introducing no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in Maidstone:

James Whatman Way (North/South Arm)	**East**	From a point 102m south of the centre line of James Whatman Way (east/west arm) for its entire length in a northerly direction.
	West	From a point 30m north of the centre line of James Whatman Way (east/west arm) for its entire length in a northerly direction.
James Whatman Way (East/West Arm)	**Both**	From a point at the junction with the north/south arm of James Whatman Way in an easterly direction for its entire length to include around the central traffic island

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD by 12 noon on 1 August 2011

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

NIGHTINGALE LANE (BACK LANE), SUNDRIDGE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Nightingale Lane (Back Lane), Sundridge between B2042 Wheatsheaf Hill and Little Norman Street.

The Order will become effective on 11th July 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to commence 16th July 2011 and last for 1 week.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Wheatsheaf Hill, Coopers Corner, Camberwell Lane, Ide Hill Road, Great Norman Street and Little Norman Street

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of new power cable.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

BROAD STREET, MONKS HORTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to a defective area within the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broad Street, Monks Horton, on or after 11 July 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

Broad Street (shown on some maps as Southenay Lane) will be closed between the junctions with Fiddling Lane and Church Lane.

The alternative route is via Fiddling Lane, Whiteways (Scot's Lane) and Church Lane.

CASTLE HILL AVENUE, FOLKESTONE PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to defective areas within the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, on or after 11 July 2011 for up to 2 nights or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Sandgate Road and Shorncliffe Road.

The closures are between 7.00 pm and 5.00 am each night with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route is via A259 Shorncliffe Road, Earls Avenue and A2033 Sandgate Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

PERRY WOOD, SELLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Perry Wood, Selling, on or after 25 July 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Sand Bank Farm.

The alternative route is via Grove Road, Reynolds Grove Road, Pickens Forstal and Perry Wood.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, BREDGAR AND TUNSTALL, SWALE)

(40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 40 mph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

BREDGAR ROAD from the junction with Rookery Close for a distance of 420 metres in an easterly direction and 220 metres in a westerly direction to the existing 30 mph speed limit terminal.

SWANTON STREET from the junction with Bashford Barn Lane for a distance of 600 metres in a southerly direction and 375 metres in a northerly direction to the existing 30 mph speed limit terminal.

The Order was sealed on 1st July 2011 and will come into force on 11th July 2011

Full details are contained in the Order, which together with the relevant plans, statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which have been amended by the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

VARIOUS ROADS, SITTINGBOURNE (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public during gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to reverse the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Terrace Road, Harold Road and Thomas Road, Sittingbourne.

This Order takes effect on or after 25 July 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed, and is valid when the appropriate signs are displayed on site.

The effect of the order is that traffic will now flow westbound in Thomas Road, southbound in the section of Harold Road between Thomas Road and Terrace Road, and eastbound in Terrace Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

BROADLEY ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the liklihood of danger to the public due to flooding and subsidence, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broadley Road, Margate, on or after 12 July 2011 for up to 18 months.

The road will be closed between St Peter's Footpath and the junction with Dane Valley Road.

Access will be permitted from St Peter's Road to St Peter's Footpath.

There is no alternative route.

DURBAN ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Durban Road, Margate, on or after 25 July 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Addiscombe Road and College Road.

MONKTON STREET, MONKTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new wastewater connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Monkton Street, Monkton, on or after 25 July 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of No.121 (near Monkton Primary School).

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Willetts Hill and Colletts Hill.

The alternative route is via Willetts Hill, A299 Canterbury Road West, Tothill Street and Monkton Road

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ST PETER'S ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new waste water connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Peter's Road, Broadstairs, on or after 25 July 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Upton Road.

The alternative route is via St Peter's Road, Green Lane, A255 Broadstairs Road and St Peter's Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(ALLENS LANE, PLAXTOL) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Allens Lane, from the junction of Brook Lane for approximately 150m on or after Thursday 14th July 2011 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Brook Lane, Long Mill Lane, The Hurst, Old Soar Road, Allens Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused but it is necessary for work to be carried out to overhead cabling. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Louise Skull on 08700 500792.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Tonbridge & Malling and District of Sevenoaks

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(EGGPIE LANE, HILDENBOROUGH, SCABHARBOUR ROAD, LEIGH, BAILEYS HILL ROAD, CHIDDINGSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Monday 25th July 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule

Road Name:	Eggpie Lane, Hildenborough
Extent:	75 metres south of Durhams Farm
Dates:	Start: 25th July 2011 End: 7th August 2011
Diversion:	Scabharbour Road, Philpots Lane
Road Name:	Scabharbour Road, Leigh
Extent:	150 metres south of Gaza Trading Estate
Dates:	Start: 8th August 2011 End: 19th August 2011
Diversion:	Eggpie Lane, Philpots Lane, Scabharbour Road. HGV'S Philpots Lane, Watts Cross Road, B245 London Road, Morley's Road, Scabharbour Road
Road Name:	Baileys Hill Road, Chiddingstone
Extent:	50 metres south of Sharps Cottage
Dates:	Start: 9th August 2011 End: 11th August 2011
Diversion:	Bowzell Green, Bowzells Lane, Bowzell Road, Hale Oak Road, B2027 Penshurst Road, Bore Place Road

Spiecapag UK Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a steel oil pipeline. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Tom Worley on 01295 220330.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(B2169 FURNACE LANE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)

(50 MPH SPEED LIMIT)

ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84 (1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 30 mph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

B2169 Furnace Lane from a point 65 metres east of the East Sussex/Kent boundary at Win Bridge to a point 18 metres west of Bull Lane

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Town Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD by 12 noon on 1 August 2011

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PENSHURST ROAD, SPELDHURST) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Penshurst Road from the junction of Northfields to Milford House on or after Monday 25th July 2011 for a period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Penshurst Road, Poundsbridge Lane, B2176 Penshurst Road, Barden Road, Northfields.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact John Adsley on 07774 983419.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(SHEFFIELD ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Sheffield Road between Draper Street and Castle Street on or after Monday 25th July 2011 when required for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Draper Street, Pennington Road, Castle Street.

UK Power Networks Ltd and Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for electrical maintenance works and a new gas supply. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact for UKPN is Scott Davis on 01732 783986 and SGN is Amy Colvin on 01689 881315.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(WAGON LANE, LEVEL CROSSING, PADDOCK WOOD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Wagon Lane at the level crossing on or after Saturday 30th July 2011 for a period of up to 2 nights between 23.00hrs and 04.00hrs or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Wagon Lane, Queen Street, Lucks Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road, Wagon Lane.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused, which is necessary for examination of the rails, lifting, repairing and packing the rails, maintenance of crossing surface and signage. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Emma Osborne on 07791 179882.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, SPELDHURST)
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2011
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 6 July 2011, the Kent County Council made an Order under Sections 1, 2, 4 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to prohibit vehicles from waiting at any time in any of the lengths of roads specified in the Schedule to this Order.

Exemptions are provided in the Order for disabled badge holders, to enable a vehicle to wait with police permission, for passengers to board or alight, for the loading and unloading of goods, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the road and for emergency service vehicles.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 6th July 2011, and other relevant documents may be inspected during normal office hours at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, The Gateway, Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells and Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it have not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may, within six weeks of publication of this notice, apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The Schedule

No waiting at any time

Barden Road, Speldhurst - Both sides - from a point 15 metres north west of its junction with Northfields to a point 15 metres south-east of that junction.

Barden Road, Speldhurst - West side - from its junction with Furzefield Avenue to a point 35 metres north of that junction

Furzefield Avenue, Speldhurst - North-east side - from its junction with Barden Road to a point 20 metres north west of that junction

Langton Road, Speldhurst - East side - from its junction with Penshurst Road to a point 46 metres south of that junction

Langton Road, Speldhurst - West side - from its junction with Penshurst Road to a point 74 metres south of that junction

Northfields, Speldhurst - Both sides - from its junction with Barden Road to a point 18 metres south-west of that junction

Northfields, Speldhurst - Both sides - from a point 12 metres north-east of its junction with St Mary's Lane to a point 12 metres south-west of that junction

Northfields, Speldhurst - Both sides - from its junction with Penshurst Road to a point 14 metres north-east of that junction

Northfields, Speldhurst - South-east side - from a point 11 metres north-east of its junction with Northfields south eastern spur to a point 11 metres south-west of that junction

Northfields (south Eastern Spur), Speldhurst - Both sides - from its junction with Northfields to a point 7 metres south-east of that junction

Penshurst Road, Speldhurst - North-east side - from a point 28 metres north-west of its junction with Northfields to a point 16 metres south-east of that junction

Penshurst Road, Speldhurst - South side - from a point 20 metres west of its junction with Langton Road to a point 20 metres east of that junction

Penshurst Road, Speldhurst - South-west side - from a point 23 metres north-west of its junction with Northfields to a point 28 metres south-east of that junction

Southfields, Speldhurst - East side - from its junction with Penshurst Road to a point 18 metres south-west of that junction

Southfields, Speldhurst - West side - from its junction with Penshurst Road to a point 8 metres south-west of that junction

St Mary's Lane, Speldhurst - Both sides - from a point 5 metres north-west of its junction with Northfields to a point 5 metres south-east of that junction

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 9th July 2011

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PROW - Borough of Sevenoaks

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR3A IN THE PARISH OF SHOREHAM

(Public Footpath SR3A)

(Prohibition of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath SR3A, between Well Hill Lane and the stile at the junction with Public Footpath SR3B (NGR TQ 500 635) to the north of Westwood Farm from the 1st July 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

If circumstances allow, it may be open sooner.

The path is to be closed because of excavations and earth moving operations on the route and there is a likelihood of danger to the public.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact
Mrs Nicky Biddall Tel: (01732) 872829 (ext 2)

PROW - Borough of Borough of Swale

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR259 IN THE PARISH OF LYNSTED WITH KINGSDOWN

(Public Footpath ZR259 in the Parish of Lynsted with Kingsdown)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath ZR259 between NGR TQ 946 619, the rear of Batteries Close and NGR TQ 947 622, approximately 300 metres south of the A2 from the 1st July 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 1st October 2011.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is approximately 20 metres to the east running parallel to the original line of the path and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact:
Michael Ellis
Tel: (01303) 814534 ext 209

PROW - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDERS HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

i) (PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR24, BURHAM) PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

ii) (PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR52 (PARTS), BURHAM) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 29 June 2011 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Orders under sections 118 and 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Orders as confirmed is to:-

i) extinguish the entire width of that length of Public Footpath MR24 which commences at its junction with Public Bridleways MR24 and MR599 at NGR TQ 7447 6203 (point A) and passes for 98 metres in a north north westerly direction to its connection with Common Road at NGR TQ 7443 6212 (point B).

ii) a) divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath MR52 which commences at its junction with Public Footpath MR23 at NGR TQ 7406 6225 (point A) and passes for 466 metres in an east south easterly through south easterly direction to its connection with Public Bridleways MR24 and MR599 at NGR TQ 7447 6203 (point B).

b) divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath MR52 which commences at its junction with Public Bridleways MR24 and MR599 at NGR TQ 7447 6203 (point D) and passes for 28 metres in a south easterly direction to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath MR52 at NGR TQ 7449 6201 (point E).

and to provide:-

ii) a) a new length of Public Footpath MR52 which commences at the aforementioned point A (NGR TQ 7406 6225) and passes for 440 metres in a south easterly through east south easterly direction to its connection with Public Bridleway MR599 at NGR TQ 7446 6208 (Point C). The new length of path will have a width of 2.0 metres.

b) A new length of Public Footpath MR52 which commences at the aforementioned point E at NGR TQ 7449 6201 and runs in a northerly direction for 20 metres to its connection with Public Bridleway MR599 at NGR TQ 7449 6203 (point F). The new length of path will have a width of 1.7 metres.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

Copies of the Orders as confirmed and the Order Maps have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Orders and Maps may be purchased there.

The Extinguishment Order came into force on 29 June 2011 and the Diversion Order comes into force on 27 July 2011, but if a person aggrieved by the Orders wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 10 July 2011, make an application to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 10th July 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/0761/S - 1, WESTBROOK, MILL STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0ED - Retrospective application for listed building consent for the installation of an external flue to serve replacement boiler. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0806/S - LAND AT ANDROMEDA, HEATH ROAD, COXHEATH - Variation of conditions 8 and 9 of planning permission MA/03/2258 to exclude the provision of landscaping to the eastern boundary. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/0843/S - 2, THE GREEN, LOWER ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3BH - Retrospective application for erection of decking at rear of dwelling. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/0931/N - 7, PLANTATION LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4BH - Erection of a first floor side extension, two storey side and rear extension and a rear conservatory. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0962/N - SAYWELL FARM, BEDMONTON, WORMSHILL, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 0EH - Extensions and adaptations to the house. Demolition of existing stables, concrete garage, timber garage, external walls, a tree and terrace area. Erection of new stables and new outbuilding housing a double garage and home office. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0963/N - SAYWELL FARM, BEDMONTON, WORMSHILL, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 0EH - An application for listed building consent for extensions and adaptations to the house. Demolition of existing stables, concrete garage, timber garage, external walls, a tree and terrace area. Erection of new stables and new outbuilding housing a double garage and home office. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0965/S - SOUTHGATE BARN, HIGH BANKS, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0EQ - Change of use of offices to two dwellings with parking and landscaping. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/0988/N - BREWERS HOUSE, ASHFORD ROAD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4NN - An application for listed building consent for the installation of a larger replacement window to first floor. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0992/S - 11A, HIGH STREET, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2QD - Change of use from C3 Dwellinghouse to A2 Solicitors Office. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/0995/N - 3 - 5, BREWER STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1RU - Change of use from A1 (retail) to a mixed use of B1 (offices) and D2 (dance academy). **Reason: 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **24th July 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 10th July 2011

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

APPLICATION OF PREMISES LICENCE

I Gurinder Kaur am applying for a new Premises Licence for Shop Local, at 302B Canterbury Street. Gillingham, Kent ME7 5JP. The application is for the sale of alcohol.

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Should you wish to make a representation it must be put in writing to Medway Council at the above address by 30th July 2011 and or view my application by contacting the above address.

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01303 817044

FLYING HOME

Chef who cooked for the Queen returns to his Kentish roots

SEE PAGE 49

Youngsters jumping for joy as they make most of skate park's £82,000 makeover

SEE PAGE 55

Kent Weekend

Playing in a field near you

Top acts line up at Lounge On The Farm

TURN TO PAGE 57

PLUS: All eyes turn to dockyard as World Heritage Status looks increasingly possible for historic site - **talking point p46** Spitfire pilot memorial is finally unveiled - **Kent Remembered p47** Nine lives and still a triumph for Mitsubishi Lancer - **driving p69**

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Picturesque Marlow

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Bembridge Coast Hotel
Isle of Wight
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- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
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THE INTERVIEW

Safari on your doorstep

Nick Ames tours Kent's African landscape and discovers more about the appalling threats to these marvellous but endangered creatures

PORT Lympne Wild Animal Park boasts its very own safari-style lodges overlooking what is probably the most authentic re-creation of a watering hole in the Serengeti outside Africa.

Giraffe, rhino, zebra, ostrich, wildebeest, eland, antelope, water buffalo and more all roam free within sight of the lodge and frequently come to drink just yards from the accommodation at Livingstone Lodge.

Billed as a unique African experience in the wilds of Kent, the only obvious diversion from the real thing is that no predators – except for the odd local fox – are allowed to mingle with the peacefully-grazing beasts.

And to add to the feeling of over-nighting in Africa, a number of the rangers who accompany visitors hail from the continent.

One of them is Sandile Mthiyane, pictured, who worked as a ranger in his native South Africa. With an obvious passion for the animals in his charge, he has first-hand experience of one of the major dangers to the endangered species that Port Lympne and its founders, the Aspinall family, try so hard to conserve.

"Poaching is a real threat to our [South Africa's] animals," he said. "It used to be that local people would help the poachers, for cash. Now it is government policy to show how the animals matter and how they can create prosperity for a community by attracting visitors. Main demand came from the Chinese, who particularly prize rhino horn. It is seen as being an aphrodisiac."

Dr Joseph Okori, of the World Wildlife Fund, told KOS Media: "Current poaching rates mimic those of 2010, in which we saw over 300 rhino killed in South Africa alone. These losses were driven by black-market demand for rhino horn."

The current per-kilo price for illegally-obtained rhino horn is greater by one third than that of gold at current rates – up to $50,000.

The increase in demand has led to North Koreans also becoming involved in the illegal trading, with the deployment of more armed rangers and even soldiers in an attempt to stem the tide. Shoot-outs have taken place, with loss of life on both sides.

But as Mr Mthiyane pointed out, the substance that people and animals are dying over is completely worthless: "Rhino horn is made of keratin, the same stuff that makes up human hair and nails. It has no medicinal value – you might as well bite your fingernails. But the trade still goes on."

Port Lympne – together with its sister park Howletts – has been at the forefront of animal conservation, with breeding programmes for gorillas, elephants, lions and tigers, among others.

Some of these animals have been returned to the wild in line with founder John Aspinall's ethos of "act now and act fast" to prevent the eradication of species.

Son Damian is now director of The Aspinall Foundation, succeeding his father, who died in 2000. He said: "In the last 11 years we have achieved things that people said were not possible. We have returned rhinos to Tanzania, gorillas to Gabon and Congo as well as Cape buffalo and Burmese pythons to their native habitats. Conservation projects are under way in Java and Madagascar with the aim of protecting Moloch gibbons and bamboo lemurs respectively."

Funding for this work comes from visitors to the parks, with innovative attractions such as Livingstone Lodge – winner of several tourism awards – key to their continuation.

A night at Livingstone Lodge offers a welcome drink, the safari, accommodation, a five-course dinner and licensed bar, followed by breakfast and a second safari the following morning.

And, most importantly, money raised helps to conserve threatened species across the world.

■ **Livingstone Lodge costs depend on season and vary from £115 to £210 per person; see www.aspinallfoundation.org**

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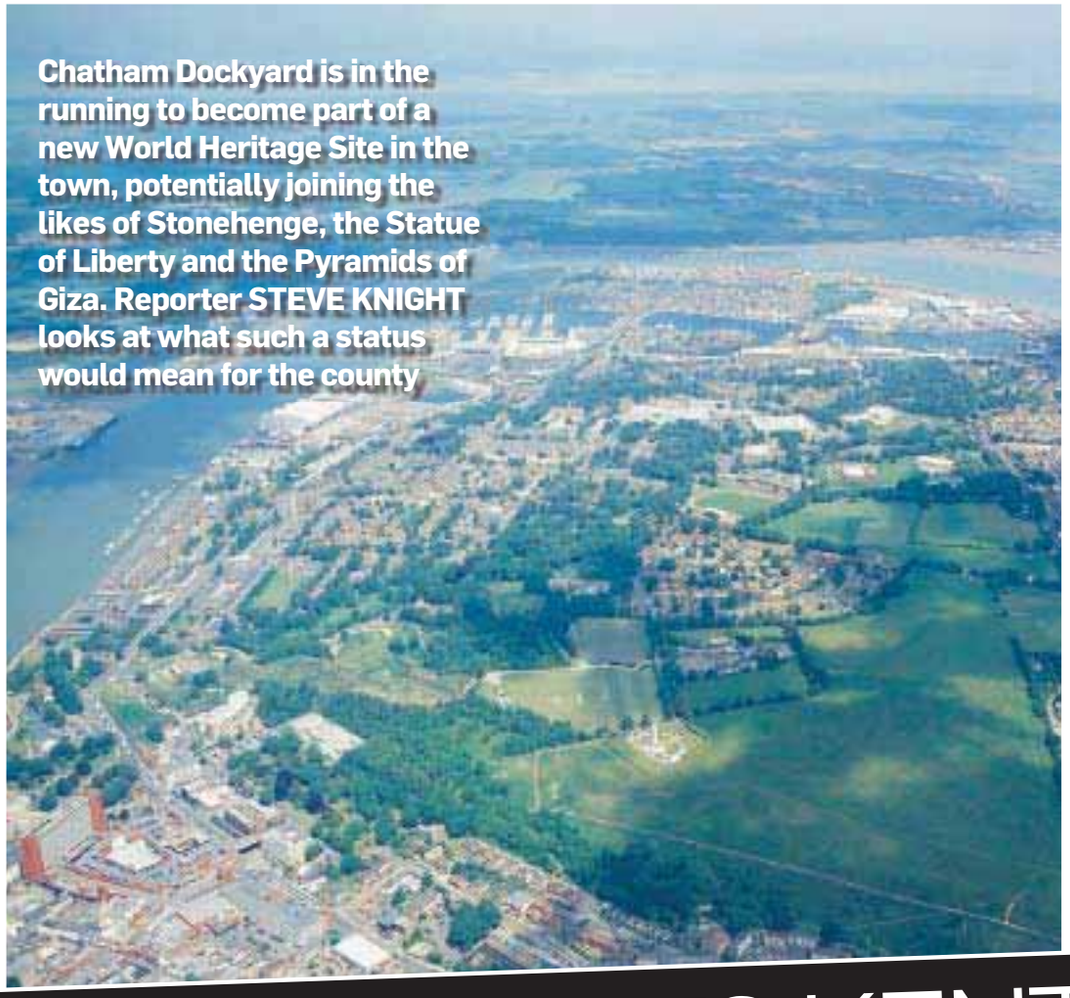
TALKING **POINT**

World Heritage Sites



Chatham Dockyard is in the running to become part of a new World Heritage Site in the town, potentially joining the likes of Stonehenge, the Statue of Liberty and the Pyramids of Giza. Reporter STEVE KNIGHT looks at what such a status would mean for the county

HIGH HOPES: An aerial view of the proposed new World Heritage Site at Chatham, including the historic dockyard, Fort Amherst, Gun Wharf, Upnor Castle, the Great Lines, Brompton Village, the Royal School of Military Engineering and the River Medway

HERITAGE PUTS KENT IN GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

AS THE home of the Royal Navy for well over 400 years, it comes as no surprise that Chatham Dockyard and the surrounding area is on the verge of earning World Heritage Site status.

From the Spanish Armada in the 16th century to the Falklands crisis of the early 1980s, ships built, repaired and manned from Medway's port secured Britain's command of the oceans for generations and earned the town global admiration.

But while becoming a World Heritage Site would place Chatham in the same category as such world-famous landmarks as Stonehenge, the Great Barrier Reef and the Statue of Liberty, there is still a long way to go before the town's residents and businesses will be able to crack open the champagne and celebrate.

And as Medway Council leader Rodney Chambers explains, the process has been delayed even further due to problems with the other hopefuls that make up the Government's 'tentative list' of possible submissions to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

"All the applicants were asked to prepare a case for our respective areas for submission next year," he said. "But it would appear that out of all 11, only the Chatham bid is ready to go.

"I've heard from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport that there's now going to be a delay to allow the other aspirants to catch up, which I think is a little unfair on us here in Chatham. Personally I believe that if only one bid is ready then only one should be put forward to Unesco.

"They're now asking that the applications be ready by the latter part of next year rather than the latter part of this year, but everyone has had the same amount of time to get ready so why should they be given an extension?

"I'm not confident that a submission will be made on behalf of the UK this year, and I can't see one being made until 2013."

A World Heritage Site is a place listed by Unesco as being of special cultural or physical significance, such as the Taj Mahal, Yellowstone National Park and the Pyramids of Giza.

While each World Heritage Site remains part of the legal territory of the state wherein the site is located, UNESCO considers it in the interest of the international community to preserve each site.

The Chatham Dockyard application – which also includes Fort Amherst, Gun Wharf, Upnor Castle, the Great Lines, Brompton Village, the Royal School of Military Engineering and the River Medway – has been in the works since 2007.

Cllr Chambers said: "Medway Council, the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and a number of other organisations submitted our bid because of the significant part this area has played in the life and defence of our country over many hundreds of years, bearing in mind this was the home of the Royal Navy for well over four centuries.

"You're always going to receive a tourism boost from being a World Heritage Site but it also helps in getting international recognition, which would help us in attracting extra investment into Medway."

There are currently only 28 World Heritage Sites in the UK and just one in Kent, that being the joint WHS of Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church.

The Canterbury site was one of the earliest to receive the status in 1988, meaning town planners have had to adhere to strict planning and maintenance guidelines for more than 20 years.

City conservation manager David Kincaid said: "Back in 1988 I don't think the council had to do an awful lot to get the site nominated, but since then the amount of work people have to put in to justify their applications is massive and the stakes have risen.

"Now we have to pay much more attention to what the local authority does in how it might affect the appearance of the World Heritage Site, such as the views coming into and out of the city.

"What Unesco also likes all sites to have is a management plan laying out what actions will be taken to ensure they are restored, protected and so on. The plans run for 10 years before you have to draw up another, and there are periodic reviews.

"They can also de-designate a site if they believe a development is going on that could affect the reasons for it being made a WHS in the first place. For example, the Dresden Elbe Valley in Germany was stripped of its status after a new bridge was built through it."

In addition to the Chatham application, another Kent location – Charles Darwin's former home at Down House, Bromley – is also in the running for World Heritage Site status.

Outside of London only Devon has more than one WHS, so for Kent to have three would clearly put the Garden of England on the world map as a place of history and culture.

Mr Kincaid said: "It would be pretty remarkable to have three in Kent. It just shows that in terms of world heritage Kent has always been an important gateway, and it's the county with the most listed buildings and scheduled monuments in the country.

"It's been disputed over, fought in and invaded a lot over the years, so history runs deep here and it would be great to have three WHS to reflect that. All three have their own unique qualities and are very different places, but the key thing is they all provide outstanding universal value."

For Cllr Chambers and the rest of the people behind the Chatham World Heritage Site bid, it will be an anxious few months and maybe even years before they receive the news they have all been waiting for. But when the day eventually comes, he agrees it will be a good thing for Kent and Medway.

"You have to look at the history of the county and how its people have played a significant part in the life of the country," he said. "If Kent does eventually have three World Heritage Sites then I think it will be richly deserved."

> **Kent has been disputed over, fought in and invaded over the years, so history runs deep here and it would be great to have three World Heritage Sites to reflect that**
>
> **DAVID KINCAID,** CANTERBURY CONSERVATION MANAGER

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

THE FEW: Warplanes were a common sight in the Kent skies during one of the war's crucial periods

Memorial for Spitfire pilot is finally unveiled

By Jenna Pudelek
jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

WHAT began as a boyhood fascination with the heroic fighter pilots of the Battle of Britain has turned into a lifelong hobby for Malcolm Pettit.

Now 65, he grew up in Hildenborough in the aftermath of World War Two, and the story of a Spitfire pilot who crashed in the grounds of the town's Half Moon pub in 1940, had become folklore.

In 1972, Mr Pettit gained permission to dig up the engine of the plane from the site.

Since then, he has wanted a permanent memorial to the pilot, John Romney Mather, of 66 Squadron Gravesend, at the Half Moon. He has also spent some 40 years collecting memorabilia including parts of planes and uniforms from the Battle of Britain, creating a museum in tribute to The Few at his Tonbridge home.

Finally, on Armed Forces Day on June 26, Mr Pettit's desire to see a permanent reminder of the tragic incident became a reality with a memorial display unveiled to the fanfare of a Spitfire fly-pass.

Describing the excavation of the engine, he said: "It was every schoolboy's dream. I was born just after the war and it was very much alive in everyone's memory.

"I feel what those young men did, fighting for their country and getting killed is often forgotten now.

"I thought if 'I don't do it now it's never going to get done'.

LOOKOUT: Spotters scanned the skies for German planes

"I wanted a memorial plaque in the Half Moon as a record of what happened."

Mr Pettit, a carpenter, said he "dabbled" in paiting with oil and water colours and a work he did of the Spitfire crash now hangs in the pub as part of the memorial.

"As young lads we were in awe of what had taken place in the night skies during the Battle of Britain," he said.

"The heroics and bravery of the Air Force pilots flying for their lives and fighting for their country – it was very much a part of life when we went to school, all by friends were aware of what was going on in 1940."

The events of the Battle of Britain are well-documented, but what is less clear is how Officer Mather, aged 24, from Blackheath in south east London, came to crash land in Hildenborough on October 27, 1940 at 8.30am.

Mr Pettit said after decades of research and hearsay, he is now 95 per cent certain that the Spitfire was shot out of the skies by a German plane.

"For many years there were two stories," he said.

"I spoke to an old gentleman who was a milkman at the time and he said he definitely heard a battle, he heart gunfire.

"He said he saw two Spitfires break the cloud, one going down vertically and the other flying around.

"Some people said he had a problem with oxygen failure.

"But now we've got 95 per cent evidence from German archives that he was shot down.

"Although the German pilot recorded it as a Hurricane, they look similar, and it was at the right time and the right day.

"There was an incident over Tonbridge which it says involved a Hurricane. But I'm 95 per cent sure it was the Hildenborough Spitfire. It is too much of a coincidence to be anything else.

"The sad thing is that the battle damage of the wreckage was not recorded. My mum and dad were getting up at 8.30am and they heard the rattle of gunfire.

"Sadly all these people are no longer around now. It's tragic it took so long to do this [the memorial] because people had tremendous memories as it was such a small village.

"Houses were damaged with cracks. The plane actually went through a hen house because when I found the engine it was full of white chicken feathers."

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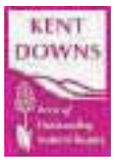

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Keeping it local gives chef vision for pub's new menu

Ed Hill talks to Dougald Patten, who is creating a little haven for food-lovers in Wye with locally-sourced food

DURING his career, Dougald Patten has cooked for royalty. But now the chef has returned to his roots to make the most of the county's best local produce.

Dougald grew up in the Ashford area but left home at 18 to pursue a successful catering career in London and Norfolk.

His 20 years in the business has seen him cook for Prince Charles and the Queen.

He is now head chef at the New Flying Horse in the picturesque village of Wye and relishing the challenge of creating a new menu.

The New Flying Horse is the latest pub in the Shepherd Neame group to focus on food.

The company's development team, headed by retail purchasing and development manager Graeme Endacott, head development chef Simon Howlett and Dougald, have refined what the pub has to offer to food-lovers.

Dougald said: "I am very impressed with the quality of the produce from our suppliers. We get first-class meat and vegetables and especially great fish. When I worked in Norfolk, we sourced fish from boats that were out in the North Sea for seven days at a time.

"The fish we serve at the New Flying Horse is from Griggs of Hythe and is landed daily."

As a result, fish features prominently on Dougald's menus, including Hythe Bay fish pie using a selection of locally-caught seafood, served with buttered peas, and classic Dover sole served with broad beans, asparagus and crushed lemon potatoes.

The asparagus being served at the New Flying Horse during the season is sourced from a producer close to the pub and can be on the plate less than three hours after being cut.

Another quintessential Kentish dish is New Romney lamb's liver, served with wholegrain mustard mash, buttered kale and onion gravy.

Locally-sourced, fresh and seasonal produce are important to Dougald. He is also keen to take advantage of the pub's spectacular garden to give customers a unique outdoor dining experience.

The extensive grounds have a special feature; a re-creation of a Chelsea Flower Show winning garden. Julian Dowle's design, A Soldier's Dream Of Blighty, includes a selection of herbs and vegetables from a wartime seed catalogue selected by the Chelsea Pensioners themselves.

It also has a Dig For Victory vegetable plot, a pond, a field of poppies and a miniature traditional English pub. The design forms the centrepiece of the pub's garden, which also has a play area.

"I have devised a garden menu to be enjoyed outdoors at weekends. It includes some light dishes and salads as well as barbecue-style items such as an oriental mackerel dish, a cut of rump steak, grilled halloumi, kebabs and lamb chops," said Dougald.

The regular seasonal menus are supplemented daily by a specials board which makes the most of what's fresh and in season.

Favourites include Barnsley chop with ratatouille and Jersey potatoes, and pork and paprika casserole served with rice.

The New Flying Horse was a 17th-century posting house. It has nine rooms for guests and is an ideal base to explore the spectacular views of the North Downs such as Wye's chalk crown and the Devil's Kneading Trough. It is also a short drive from the historic treats of Canterbury.

The traditional pub serves Shepherd Neame's cask ales and also offers a range of wines.

But it is the quality of the food that Dougald hopes will really put the pub on the map: "The ingredients available in Kent are exceptional and I am enjoying the challenge of developing a range of dishes that make the most of them."

OFF TO THE FLYER: Chef Dougald Pattern tries to use only local produce in his varied menu at the New Flying Horse in Wye

Online recommendation serves up real treat

RESTAURANT **Review**

INTERNET reviews are not always the most reliable of sources, particularly where restaurants are concerned, but the praise lavished on Royal Inn from the online community warranted a closer inspection.

Only open for two years and situated near St Augustine's, away from Canterbury's main eating districts, it is easy to see how this Chinese restaurant could have slipped under the culinary radar.

While the food is excellent, what sets it apart from many of its competitors is the ambience.

The moment you cross the threshold, it is like walking into a friend's house – there are only two small rooms and the intimate surroundings are complemented by very friendly staff.

It feels the sort of place diners return to and it was clear on the evening I visited that several of the tables were taken up by regulars.

Faced with the usual array of traditional starters, my guest and I went for the chef's special mixed platter (£7 per person). Here you meet all your old favourites, including satay chicken, seaweed and prawn toast.

Feeling duty-bound, for the purposes of the review you understand, to try as much from the menu as possible, we opted for a soup course before the mains. The chicken noodle and won ton soups (£3.15 each) were tasty but probably too filling to be squeezed in between courses.

The menu for the main courses has a large selection of fish dishes alongside the more usual suspects.

It was enough to tempt my guest, who went for the inventive scallops with macadamia nuts (£8.95), while I went for the more mainstream sea-spiced chicken (£5.95).

Even with a brief break before the main course, the size of the accompanying house special noodles (£7.95) meant no room for dessert.

Instead we went for two different green teas, which rounded off the meal nicely. The staff were only too happy to keep replenishing the teapots even though we were the only customers preventing them from closing up.

With a bottle of rioja (£19.95), the bill came to £68.85, which did not feel over-priced. On leaving, it was a surprise to discover more than three hours had passed since we arrived, which is always a good sign. I would not hesitate in returning.

David Pritchard

Royal Inn,
1-2 Longport
Canterbury CT1 1PE
01227 453 063

Farmers' markets

Dartford

THE farmers' market is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm on the third Friday of the month. There's a variety of produce available, including meat, bread, plants, preserves, fudge and much more

Egerton

EGERTON farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stallholders still selling at the market in the Millennium Hall. It sells local produce including meat, fruit and vegetables at very reasonable prices.

Hempstead

HEMPSTEAD Valley farmers' market started in September 2006 and is held on the second Sunday of the month between 10am and 2pm throughout the year in the shopping centre selling a wide variety of local produce, including meat, fruit and vegetables.

Meopham

MEOPHAM farmers' market has been operating since July 2004 in the overflow car park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre, *ie* the site of the school, library and doctors' surgery in Meopham on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

Sissinghurst

THE extremely popular market in the picturesque village of Sissinghurst is located in the ancient Elizabethan barn, within the famous National Trust site on the second Monday of the month, when the gardens are open between midday and 3pm.

Iwade

IWADE Village Hall first opened a farmers' market in February 2009 and it takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 10am until 1pm, offering fresh local produce including meat, eggs, drinks, fruit and vegetables at competitive prices.

■ **For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

THE WEDDING SHOW

Leeds Castle, Kent

SATURDAY 15TH & SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2011
10AM - 5PM DAILY

Held over two days in a luxurious grand marquee within the grounds of Leeds Castle, The Wedding Show gives brides the opportunity to meet the suppliers who will help to create their dream wedding.

AT THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS VENUE IN KENT

Photograph by Karl Grant, Camera Press London

"I am delighted to be hosting The Wedding Show at Leeds Castle and I look forward to meeting you there"

Claire Sweeney

THE CATWALK

There are four magical and inspirational catwalk shows on each of the two days with wondrous collections of exquisite bridal designs, couture, ladies fashions, lingerie and men's attire.

On both days TV celebrity Claire Sweeney will be hosting two fabulous catwalk shows.

The shows are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed creating the 'wow factor'.

© Alfie & Trish Photography

NEW

2011 wedding magazine covering Kent. For more information call 01303 817164

BOOK TICKETS ONLINE www.kentnews.co.uk/weddings

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LEEDS CASTLE KENT, ENGLAND | KENT BRIDE MAGAZINE | Pure weddings | Kent on Saturday | Kent on Sunday | Organised by ARCHANT

Coast along to a glorious experience

KENT has one of the longest coastlines of any English county and certainly one of the most beautiful, with views changing constantly and the sea reflecting the mood of the weather.

No two days looking out across the water ever provide the same views. Stunning scenery ranges from the austere beauty of Romney Marsh with its beaches and landscape under large skies to the sands of the Isle of Thanet and the iconic White Cliffs of Dover.

And what better way to enjoy these lovely creations of nature than with a glass in your hand and something wonderful on your plate?

The restaurants we feature this week all have awesome views out to sea as well as culinary creations on their menus which are simply divine.

The sun, the sea and the sand all combine to give every venue its own identity and emphasise the delights of a coastal eaterie.

And then, of course, there are the fruits of the sea, which can be enjoyed at the table.

Kent's fishing fleet still prides itself on bringing in the freshest catches, and in many cases the fish set out for dinner has been caught just hours earlier.

In an age when huge importance is put on local foods and sustaining businesses and jobs, here you see how both communities and palates benefit.

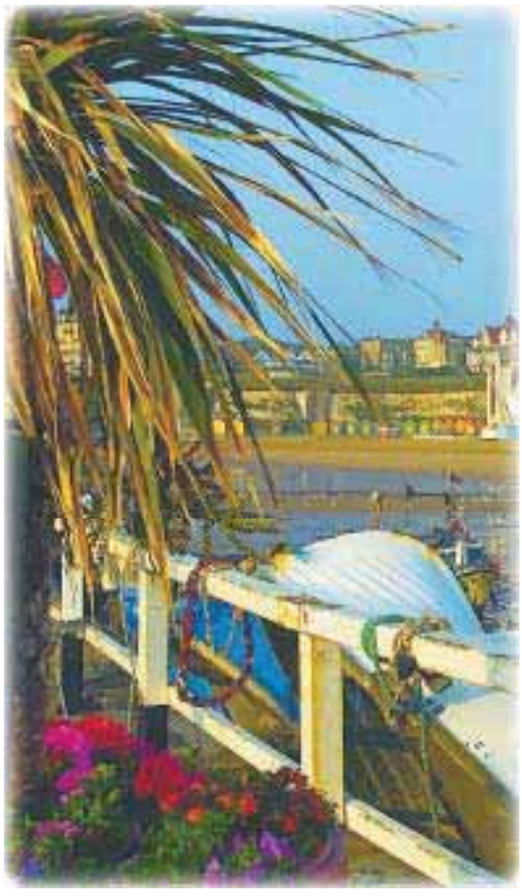
Now, as the summer months mean hot days and balmy nights, there is no better time to enjoy a glorious meal by the seaside.

William & Brown
Whitstable

Why here...
Serves modern and traditional Spanish dishes, with the best suppliers and importers and menus following seasons. The Observer's Jay Rayner said: "As befits its location, the fish is epecially good."

On the menu...
Jamon Iberico, guindillas with anchovies, scallops with morcilla, sardinas a la plancha, Catalan honeyed chicken, beef Madrid, paella Valenciana, albondigas, calamares and more

How to book...
William & Brown Tapas, 48 Harbour Street, Whitstable CT5 1AQ; phone 01227 273373; www.thetapas.co.uk



Smiths Court
Margate

Why here...
Soaring 12ft windows and polished marble floors make The Orangery at Smiths Court one of the best dining venues in Thanet.
All produce is locally sourced and freshly produced.

On the menu...
Set price table d'hote menu costs £19.95 for three courses, for lunch or dinner. Also a carvery on Sundays from noon until 3pm. This month's highlights are steak tartare and cannon of lamb.

How to book...
The Orangery Restaurant, Smiths Court Hotel; phone 01843 222310 info@organgeryrestaurant.co.uk www.orangeryrestaurant.co.uk

The Minnis
Birchington

Why here...
Fantastic unspoilt views over golden sands and blue seas combine with wonderful, interesting and original dishes. The menu includes some great sharing plates such as seafood platter; home produce includes salami, salt beef, pastrami, sweet-cured pork loin and homemade pickled vegetables and chutneys.
All charcuterie, pickles and chutneys are made on site and diners can eat either inside or outside.

On the menu...
Great traditional dishes such as battered fish and chips and homemade corned beef and eggs. There's also, for example, roast chump of lamb, Parmesan fondants and shaved black truffles, and Asian-style belly of free-range pork with pork, apple and sage bonbons and pak choi.

How to book...
Minnis Bar and Restaurant, The Parade, Birchington CT7 9QP; phone 01843 841844; email the.minnis@virgin.net

Hythe Bay
Hythe

Why here...
Situated right on the seafront, with seaside-style décor and alfresco dining offering stunning sea views. There is excellent service, with fish, non-fish and children's options.

On the menu...
The restaurant uses locally-caught fish and seafood as much as possible, while daily specials are available. The speciality is the Magnificent Seven scoops of ice cream for two to share.

How to book...
Hythe Bay Seafood Restaurant and Bar, Marine Parade, Hythe CT21 6AW phone: 01303 233844

King Ethelbert
Reculver

Why here...
Situated by the historic Reculver towers and the Reculver country park site, right next to the beach.
The location benefits from great walking, as well as cycling routes between Thanet and Herne Bay.
This family-run, friendly free-house offers traditional, quality home-cooked food at affordable prices for all the family. Daily specials change regularly, with old favourites always available. "Come dine with us," say the proprietors.

On the menu...
Home-cooked classics including liver and bacon, ploughman's, sandwiches and jackets. A traditional Sunday roast with all the trimmings is just £4.95; booking advisable. Open Monday to Thursday, 11am-11pm; Friday and Saturday, 11am-midnight; and Sunday, midday to 11pm.

How to book...
King Ethelbert, Reculver Lane, Reculver, Herne Bay CT6 6SU; for bookings, phone 01227 374368

Walpole Bay
Cliftonville

Why here...
The Walpole Living Museum and its unique gallery of napkin art are very special attractions. There is a large outdoor terrace with fantastic sea views, so it is ideal for summer.

On the menu...
The venue is open for breakfast and serves snacks and cream teas all day. Dinner is served from 7pm-9.30pm and uses locally-sourced produce for English dishes. Fish is a speciality.

How to book...
Walpole Living Museum, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville 01843 221703 www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT **Six of the Best** CONTACT 01303 817150 OR EMAIL **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

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CAROLINE size 16, seeks kind, honest, loving gent, 45 plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371099**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

AFRICAN female, likes cooking, travel seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386712**

DONNA 47, bubbly, caring, loving, seeks genuine, loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370863**

VERY good looking Turkish female looking to meet male 29-45 for fun friendship. Looks/race/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370183**

ACTIVE solvent female with GSOH looking to start life again but this time be a lot more adventurous, care to join me? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370181**

CONFIDENT fun female bored of spending time alone, looking for fun man to share lots of laughs and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370177**

JACKIE petite attractive, brown hair/eyes, many interests, OHAC, looking for sincere male who also likes good food and wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370123**

COUNTRY loving lass seeks country fella for pleasant weekends down on the farm. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370121**

WELL grounded 25yr old attractive female, seeks similar male up to 40yrs for mutual friendship and meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370117**

BEAUTIFUL stunning young female, 21, seeks older, retired gent 70 plus to take care of her. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368187**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

LISTEN up! Attractive female, WLTM male into music, films, sport and theatre. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367971**

CONFIDENT blue eyed brunette, intelligent, cultured and attractive, very solvent, looking for happy older male who will let me look after him. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368401**

30YR old beautiful blonde with lovely green eyes looking for uncomplicated love and romance with a tall dark haired male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368003**

ATTRACTIVE slim 52yr old female, seeks N/S companion, 52-60 to share countryside, walking, swimming, days out, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369179**

34YR old single mum of 2, size 16, caring, cuddly, seeks genuine, loving male with GSOH. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386268**

FED up with lonely nights in! 33yr old brunette with green eyes WLTM someone 35-50yrs for TLC maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368913**

BEAUTIFUL blue eyed blonde, 26, slim, looking for evenings out with male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368911**

22YR old leggy blonde, seeking likeminded man for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368909**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

48YR old female, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, holidays, coast, seeks male, 48-50, preferably a smoker for LTR. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365955**

LYNNE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428**

SOCIABLE cuddly 70's lady, GSOH, N/S, likes cinema, days out, coast, seeks genuine male for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369297**

I'M Gorgeous, lively seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, good times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easygoing, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097**

BEAUTIFUL size 10 figured female, brown hair, big brown eyes 41yrs looking for relaxed relationship with man, 20-38yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370091**

ATTRACTIVE slim professional 35yrs seeking similar lonely professional for drinks/meals out and mutual friendship out of hours. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370089**

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521**

WANTED. Nice sincere man, 45-55 looking for LTR with kind, sincere female, dark hair, 5ft 6ins, likes wining/dining, pubs. Welling. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369417**

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305**

26YR old social pretty blonde with baby blue eyes, seeks outgoing, fun, spontaneous male for friendship/more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369219**

AFFECTIONATE female seeks warm hearted kind guy, if he exists, for good conversation, fun times and laughs. 40-67yrs **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369197**

SHY brunette 22, perfect size 10, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, own car, seeks male to cosy up with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369193**

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291**

CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359761**

57YR old lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, weekends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, TV, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665**

30YR old brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075**

36YR old female looking for mutual companionship with understanding man stuck in a similar rut. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331**

64YR old female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581**

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477**

ELIZABETH loving, kind, caring, seeks older gent, 78 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366603**

VERY cute, slim, black professional female, 36, looking for love! If you are honest, passionate, caring and spontaneous, ring me. Any race. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366725**

GREEN eyed blonde in need of love and attention seeks youthful, trendy experienced guy to enjoy good times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366723**

ATTRACTIVE young hearted female, fed up with being alone, so if you feel the same, give me a call, lets get together. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366721**

TALL blue eyed 30's female, brown hair, lots of interests, seeks male for good times. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366705**

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159**

LYNNE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428**

CARING female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes. 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369593**

SUSIE 5ft 7ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476**

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079**

FUN loving curvy red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077**

ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, into art, history, psychology, likes usual activities as well as London art galleries and walks. Brimley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365501**

ATTRACTIVE confident, lady, 37, independent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363415**

FUN female 35yrs looking to let her hair down seeks easygoing N/S guy for a relationship, 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368001**

SINGLE confident black female 32yrs, very attractive, loves doing fun and interesting things, seeking a real man. Any race/age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367999**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

MISS Gorgeous, 5ft 8ins, black beauty, curvy, likes a laugh, happy go lucky, seeks male for fun times. Hackney. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365861**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961**

A rare diamond, bright, sparkly and good quality, let me put the sparkle back into your life. Wanted professional, attractive male, 38-58, medium build, 5ft 9ins. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361005**

LADY slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, National Trust, theatre, days out, seeks sincere, honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more. Kent/Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633**

42YR old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577**

48YR old female, average build, good looking, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363321**

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331**

PRETTY woman, slim, black, widow, 39, energetic, seeks white, solvent male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360695**

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357291**

LATE 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for. I can meet anywhere in London at any time **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356995**

TALL slim brunette, just 21yrs seeks interesting older male who knows what's what, show me the ways of the world. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356969**

SOUTH London Lady, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. WLTM male of any age for fun, friendship and more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

LORRAINE seeks trustworthy white male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363793**

DONNA 35, single mum of 3, seeks male with GSOH, 35-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385064**

5FT 2ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, homely, down to earth, seeks female for LTR. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366525**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

JANE 27, caring, bubbly, likes nights out, cinema, bowling, DVDs, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363203**

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, seeks someone to share life with. Is that you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385172**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

ATTRACTIVE mature, outgoing Caribbean female, seeks interesting companion for socialising, good conversation and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367799**

YOUNG 60 something female looking for friendship only with likeminded ladies for meals out, nights out and holidays. Feltham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367625**

PETITE brunette, blue eyes witty and fun, looking for similar kind, laid back male to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368407**

YOUNG very fit brunette 23yrs, likes to look good, seeks similar sporty guy for some relaxed fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368405**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613**

FEMALE 27, seeks older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207**

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215**

FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985**

FIT lady, 65, thinks she's 40, N/S, loves life, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy loving, exciting times. Gravesend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111**

SINGLE mum, 39, likes most things, seeks male with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349999**

OLD fashioned girl, 49, fun, friendly, seeks mature male for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192**

GENUINE loving female, 40, seeks loving male, 40-50 for friendship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 345487**

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimmish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinklies. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757**

GORGEOUS lonely lass, 45, looking for some romantic liaisons with younger male, looks important, no chancers. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364415**

MARY 60, good for age, GSOH, likes cooking, meals out, looking for some fun company, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364357**

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358721**

ATTRACTIVE warm, blonde female, European, 49, seeks honest, generous male, 50 plus who will take care of me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364277**

GLASS half full N/S mid 50's woman, seeks other half. Are you a professional man, 50-60 who likes the finer things in life? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363969**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

LORNA 66, nurse, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364237**

FEMALE 64, brown/grey hair, medium build, honest, caring, loving, seeks similar in male, 30-60 for friendship/relationship. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364253**

UNIQUE attractive black female, 37, slim, enjoys music, reading, theatre nature, WLTM genuine gent, 37-49 to share laughter and life, caring, N/S who lives near London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815**

ANNE 61, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361243**

65YR old slim brunette, caring, loving, many interests, arts, coastal walks, animals, cooking, seeks attractive, compatible male. Dog owner in Maidstone perfect. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383676**

NATALIA attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344393**

PROFESSIONAL attractive, friendly, black British female, mid 40's, size 10-12 likes socialising, seeks sincere male of any nationality for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341125**

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897**

BLACK female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382910**

LONELY female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, holidays, meals out, seeks honest, genuine male for friendship initially. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356359**

POLITE bubbly female, GSOH, seeks gent for caring friendship, likes nights in and socialising. Dartford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382666**

SEALED with a kiss. 37yr old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543**

LADY 44, GSOH, short, curvy, dark hair, seeks good guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355391**

FEMALE seeks kind, caring white male, 42-50, tidy and clean for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363197**

DEBBIE mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351419**

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380918**

LISA 42, medium build, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLTM caring, down to earth male, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817**

OUTGOING sincere 5ft 6ins lady WLTM tall, caring interesting male 70's to share lifes adventure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357959**

MALE Guardian reader? Arty, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655**

SUZANNE 35, beautiful blonde, seeks male for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status unimportant. City area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527**

PROFESSIONAL black lady, 44, 5ft 3ins, medium build, seeks genuine, caring, professional guy, 40-54, any race for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359586**

CARING genuine single mum seeks male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358719**

CLARE 31, likes swimming, gym, socialising, meals out, sightseeing, seeks male. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353243**

ATTRACTIVE slim single mum, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, are you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393**

SARAH 37, caring, kind, seeks fun, caring guy, 37-49. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346319**

JEFF 58, well built, 6ft, extra large chest seeking a female for fun and friendship. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386412**

38YR old male, olive skin, loving, caring, likes animals, walks, countryside, seeks blonde, slim lady, 25-35 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386396**

FIT young active 65yr old male, medium build, dog owner, likes countryside, seeks similar active lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369011**

DAVID 47, fair hair, likes enjoying life, seeks N/S slim, pretty lady for LTR. Romney Marsh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368159**

ATTRACTIVE blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere Oriental/black/Asian female. Essex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368149**

RON retired active, feels 40, looking for fun and friendship with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370207**

SLIM good looking male, likes most things, seeks female for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366631**

FUN naughty guy, 60, seeks fun, naughty girl, any age/size. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386052**

ADVENTUROUS attractive young man, 30's, great personality, seeks mature female to share happy loving moments, laughter and amazing spiritual summer. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367973**

LEWIS 40, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367713**

DAVE own hair/teeth, own car/business, likes holidays, golf, gym, meals out, theatre, seeks honest, genuine, slim female with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367559**

SLIM easygoing, friendly male, 50, likes kisses and cuddles, seeks petite female, any age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385904**

SOUL love? Stylish male, 5ft 8ins, into music, films, art etc, seeks shapely, attractive female, 28-38 to share enjoyable times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366795**

Men Seeking

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 781 4392 (T&C's below)

GOOD looking 41yr old male, looking to make someone laugh and smile, 41-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371211**

FUN loving professional male, 42, OHAC, independent, likes good things, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Gillingham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386754**

50YR old male, smoker, likes theatre, cinema, nights in/out, reliable, caring, honest, seeks female for LTR. Sidcup. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371175**

CROYDON gent, divorced, own home, father figure type, seeks slim, quiet natured girl, over 21 who prefers the older man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371225**

JAMES seeking fun loving lady for good times. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371143**

BRIAN young 72, seeks female, 60 plus for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371015**

RICHARD 46, 5ft 6ins, dark hair, blue eyes, likes holidays, theatre, beach walks, music, countryside, meals out, cinema, seeks female for LTR. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386362**

ASHFORD man, Peter, kind, affectionate, genuine, seeks soul mate, 50-60 for lasting relationship. Ashford, Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369371**

37YR old male, 6ft 7ins, blue eyes, dark hair, GSOH, seeks female. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368969**

RON retired, active, feels 40, seeks white lady for friendship, maybe more. Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368945**

PROFESSIONAL male, 62, generous, fun loving, seeks non assertive lady for special relationship. Farnham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367191**

DAVID 58, its Spring and I am looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157**

PAUL 56, decorator, 5ft 8ins, cropped hair, attractive, genuine, kind, likes theatre, pubs, seeks female, 50-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366935**

6FT male, romantic, GSOH, caring, seeks female, 35-45 for friendship, possible romance. Single mum welcome. Sheerness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368249**

SHY average looking male, seeks funny girl to make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368219**

NICE looking guy 46, 6ft, slim, genuine, open-minded, no baggage, seeks relaxed, fun loving female with similar outlook for exciting LTR. SE London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369079**

IAN 5ft 6ins, blond hair, blue eyes, easygoing, GSOH, seeks female. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386282**

PAUL 47, large build, likes beach, cinema, music, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370693**

GENUINE male, 53, Steve, slim, GSOH, great personality, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386628**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, slim-medium build, easygoing, loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, countryside, seeks female, 37-60 for LTR. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386622**

38YR old male, medium build, grey hair, blue eyes, seeks female for fun times. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386614**

39YR old handsome gent seeks young at heart mature lady for days out, shopping and good conversation. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370461**

DEREK 46, slim, genuine, seeks Foreign lady for possible LTR. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386438**

TALL blond, non scene gay hunk, 28, seeks older, solvent gent 75 plus for friendship/relationship. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368141**

STEVE mid 40's seeks male, 35-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368121**

ANDREW 35, likes nights out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368661**

NICE guy 31, CD, 5ft 7ins, seeking an older gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386186**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **Or go online**

www.localgaydate.co.uk

GAY English guy 34, Luton based, non scene, seeks older, retired gent, 70 plus for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368163**

TONY looking for fun times with guy, 45-60, quite hairy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386074**

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WALK Bedgebury

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

For some of the best cycling and walking in south-east England, there's no need to look any further than Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest

BEDGEBURY is open all year, with each season offering a host of different attractions and pleasures. Bedgebury's quarterly Seasonal Trails help visitors to discover the hidden charms and nuances of this remarkable collection of more than 12,000 trees and shrubs from across five continents, many of which are rare and endangered. Bedgebury's Friday morning Health Walks have also become a popular way for people to enjoy regular exercise. The pinetum was recently voted the most popular picnic site in the South.

Whatever your age, fitness level or physical ability, the network of surfaced paths around Bedgebury is accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Cycling

Sympathetically managed by the Forestry Commission, Bedgebury caters for all levels of cycle skills, from a gentle trundle round the 10km family cycle route to hardcore mountain biking on the 13km single track.

Thanks to Bedgebury Forest Cycle Club, the Bedgebury cycling experience is constantly evolving. Recent improvements are designed to challenge riders of all skill levels. The snaking 14km single track MTB trail has been revamped to enhance the riding experience and now offers new sections with added berms and jumps, including a short Black Run. The10km family cycling track now has a shorter 4km loop where beginners can cut their teeth.

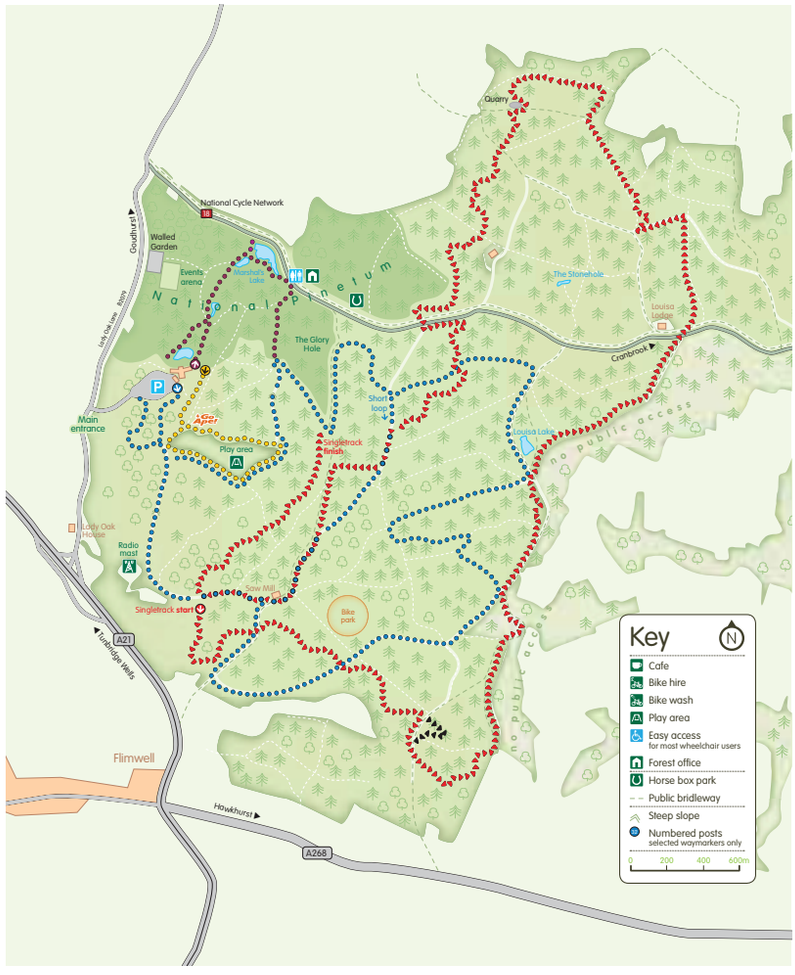
The Quench Cycles bike shop has top brands and equipment for sale or hire, with qualified mechanics on hand to ensure bikes are ready for the Bedgebury challenge. After a forest mudfest, you can clean up your bike in the state-of-the-art eco-friendly bike wash, shower yourself and head for the Bedgebury Pineatery for a bacon sandwich and a coffee.

Ollie Ireland, Bedgebury's charismatic cycle coach, runs mountain-bike coaching and leading for all ages and abilities, all round Bedgebury's scenic cycle trails. As well as conventional cycles and mountain bikes, he utilises a range of adapted cycles for coaching people with disabilities.

Walking

If, however, you prefer to take your exercise on Shanks's pony, Bedgebury is one of Kent's most popular places for walking and enjoying nature at first hand. Visitors can choose between a relaxing stroll among the noble trees of the National Pinetum, the world's finest collection of conifers, or a brisk walk around the 2,000 acres of Bedgebury Forest.

See www.forestry.gov.uk/bedgebury for further information



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EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for the county's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

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Flipping good
Revamped skate park

Ryan Clements Skate Park, Stour Centre, Ashford
www.ashford.gov.uk
01233 331111

ASHFORD skate park has reopened after an £82,000 makeover.
The Ryan Clements Skate Park, next to the Stour Centre, has doubled in size, with 10 new pieces of equipment and cutting-edge designs not seen anywhere else in the UK. The site, maintained by Ashford Borough Council, features new steel jump boxes, grind rails, quarter pipes and bespoke street furniture, making it Kent's biggest free skate park. Gravity Engineering Ltd ensured the new designs were up to scratch. The company's Jake Hipwell said: "This equipment has been designed and built specifically for Ashford skate park – these are cutting-edge designs in steel that you will not see anywhere else."

Zoolympics
Challenge for wildlife title

Drusillas Park, Alfriston
Tuesday, July 26
01233 874100
www.drusillas.co.uk

OLYMPIC fever will hit Drusillas Park as the Zoolympics Challenge Day separates the chimps from the champs.
The Zoolympics Trail is a permanent attraction at Drusillas, designed to allow participants to test their skills against the talents of the animal kingdom. However, on this day visitors will also have the opportunity to compete against each other. Between 10am and 5pm, children aged 12 and under will be invited to take part in five of the zoo's 11 challenges. Events will include How Long Can You Hang On?, How Fast Can You Run? and How Long Can You Jump?.
At the end of the day the final results will be displayed in the picnic area and the winners in each age category will receive a prize to reward their efforts.

Splashing out
Boating pool transformed

Royal Esplanade, Ramsgate
Open 8am until late every day
01843 581999
www.theboatingpool.co.uk

THE boating pool in Ramsgate has had a wonderful transformation this year. After their profile-raising reality TV show starring Dragons' Den entrepreneur Duncan Bannatyne, the brother-and-sister duo of Thalis and Katy have been busy working to keep the leisure site moving with the times.
This family-based attraction in Ramsgate boasts stunning views, free parking, free entry to the children's outdoor play area and a mini-bikes track, as well as an arcade, ice-cream stand and fully licensed restaurant and events room.
With the addition of top chef Thor Davidson to the team, the restaurant menu has had a stylish revamp, offering both traditional and contemporary dishes.
This summer season is in full stride, with this year's big event coming up later this month. The Mini V music festival, which runs on Saturday and Sunday, July 30-31, will offer live music, good food, craft stalls and a children's fair.
There will be further entertainment with the walk-on-water balls and a mouthwatering hog roast.
Entry to Mini V is free and it promises to be even better than last year's festival.
For more information on visiting the boating pool, you can visit www.theboatingpool.co.uk.

Vintage cars
Bentleys go on display

Chiddingstone Castle
Sunday, July 10
Adults £7 - Children £4
chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

MOTORING fans can head to Chiddingstone Castle for a unique car display of restored vintage and classic Bentleys.
The line-up will include a range of models from 1926 to a brand new Flying Spur.
Visitors are invited to admire the rare collection of cars before joining the owners for a summer picnic in the lovely grounds of the castle, which has a choice of perfect spots by the lake, the waterfalls or in the shade of the orangery or woodland.
Visitors can bring their own food or choose from the delicious delights available from the castle's tea room, from light lunches to homemade cakes and cream teas.
After exploring the grounds, visitors can discover the secrets inside the castle and the fascinating collections of Denys Eyre Bower. These include the unique Japanese collection, which transports you back to the days of warriors and sword-fighting, as well as the ancient Egyptian collection, inspired by the country's pyramids.

Medieval days
Do some graft at the castle

Bodiam Castle
Saturday and Sunday, July 16-17
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
adults £6.10, children £3.05

MEDIEVAL hands will make light work at Bodiam Castle as families find out what it was like to work inside a castle.
A variety of activities will take place each day, providing a fascinating insight into life in medieval Britain.
Hand-spinning and weaving will be on show, with characters from the household in authentic costumes.
There will also be brass rubbings from a selection of traditional patterns and designs.
Mick the Mail will reveal the fascinating skills and techniques behind the creation of chainmail armour used to protect medieval soldiers during bloody battles.
After the demonstrations there will be the exciting opportunity for visitors to try their hand at the techniques.
In addition to the activities, visitors can enjoy peaceful strolls around the castle's remarkable ruins and explore the impressive battlements and towers.

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Picture: ROGER SARGENT

Best city experience: it's official

Lounge On The Farm
Music festival

Merton Farm, Canterbury
Friday to Sunday, July 8-10, www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk

HIGHLY-rated music festival Lounge On The Farm has won the Best Experience gong at Canterbury's Culture Awards.
The Merton Farm event's organiser Sean Baker was delighted after it was announced at an awards ceremony that Lounge 2010 had beaten both Eurofair and the Canterbury Festival to the Best Experience title.
He said: "We had an inkling that we might win it as the guys putting on the awards ceremony kept telling us we must come to the do.
"But it was still a really nice surprise and timed well, with this year's event just a couple of weeks away.
"We know and get on well with a lot of the guys who organise the Canterbury Festival, so it was especially nice to win."
The festival, which is held on a working farm just outside the city, started up in 2006.
Since then, the show has continued to grow, with bigger attendances and bigger-named stars performing.
This year mega bands like The Streets, The Vaccines, Example, Cornershop and Echo & The Bunnymen will perform for the crowds, with new attractions like the Cowshed Dance Arena offering BBC Radio One DJ Annie Mac.

READY TO ENTERTAIN: Cornershop, left, and Example are among the many great acts lined up to play at this year's Lounge On The Farm

New event
Cider, beer and good food

Brogdale Apple Collection, Faversham
Sat and Sun, September 24-25
www.brogdalecollections.co.uk

A NEW festival is being held at Brogdale this year... the Great British Cider, Beer And Food Festival.
It is now looking for suppliers to come along and showcase food and drink from around the UK.
Sally Roger, marketing manager at Brogdale, home of the National Fruit Collections, said: "Our traditional cider festival is very popular in September and also has a number of food-producers attending, so we have decided this year to broaden the festival to give equal prominence to cider, beer and food and give local producers the chance to showcase the great food and drink which is on offer here in Kent.
"The cider bar will be larger than in previous years and we are hoping to have more than 100 different ciders to taste or take home."
Also available will be orchard tours, miniature railway rides, cookery demonstrations and gardening talks.
Saturday's music will come from local bands The Fecks, Engine and Clutch & Gearbox, and on Sunday from Adrian Ben And The Chillbillies.
Anyone interested in having a stall can contact Brogdale at enquiries@brogdalecollections.co.uk or phone 01795 536250.
Stalls cost £55 for a marquee space, with 10 per cent discount if you bring your own gazebo.

Man of the folk
Chris Wood at church venue

St Mary's Church, Ashford
Friday July 22, 7pm
www.revelationstmarys.co.uk

FOLK man Chris Wood will be playing in Ashford's new arts venue St Mary's Church this month.
Wood started out as a choirboy and much of his music bears the influence of those years spent with the music of Bach, Handel, Gibbons and Boyce.
He is self-taught on guitar and violin and his song-writing has been praised for its clarity.
He has worked with such artists as Billy Bragg and Martin and Eliza Carthy.
He also founded The English Acoustic Collective, a group of musicians, photographers, writers and choreographers who look to England's indigenous arts for their inspiration.
His first solo album, The Lark Descending, was released in 2006 to wide acclaim. The title stands Vaughan Williams's English icon on its head and Wood's songs make no apology for celebrating what he has called the 'unofficial' history of the English people.
He will be joined by Luke Jackson.
Tickets £10 plus booking fee.

HOMES

Fremont with side shed. This is the most popular two-room cabin from Johnsons Garden Buildings. Prices from £1,995.

Eldorado. If it's a space-saver that you're looking for, this is the ideal model. Prices start from £3,449.

Need some extra space, maybe for a playroom or office? Then a stylish log cabin could be just what you're after...

JOHNSONS Garden Buildings prides itself on being one of the highest-quality suppliers of log cabins available in the UK and has become a name that people associate with quality and reliability.

Offering an extensive range of timber buildings to suit all budgets and requirements, it is also able to offer a bespoke service, meaning you can design your own building, made to measure.

All the log cabins are made from the highest-quality Siberian spruce timber with an interlocking system. This is far superior to the conventional panel options currently offered by other manufacturers.

Johnsons now has four display villages across Kent – Chestfield, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks.

The sales team has many years of experience in the industry and will be more than happy to assist and answer all the questions you may have regarding your building.

Johnsons Garden Buildings offers free site surveys and would recommend this service for larger or bespoke cabins. Most wooden buildings can be installed without planning permission, but if you are at all concerned, speak to one of the members of the sales team.

Johnsons specialise in completing the whole project from start to finish; from intial design to the finished article, providing turnkey solutions and options such as climate control and oak flooring for the decerning customer.

Once the cabin has been erected, your building will come with a12-month structural warranty for that extra peace of mind.

So, whether you're looking for a summer house, playroom, garage, office or just an extra room to chill out, Johnsons can help.

With prices starting at just £1,349 from a company that prides itself on quality, service and customer satisfaction, Johnsons Garden Buildings is definitely worth a visit.

Johnsons Garden Buildings
Sales hotline local rate: 0845 45 99 444
website: www.johnsonsgardenbuildings.co.uk

Log cabins

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■ Vancouver (top left) is light and spacious with a fully-glazed front. Prices from £1,499.

■ Alamosa (above) comes with an integral porch, ideal for home-office use. Prices from £3,799.

■ Delta compact corner cabin (left) can fit in most gardens. Prices start at £1,459.

WIFE OF BATH

COTTAGES

Ground Floor

Kitchen
3.88m x 1.98m (12'1" x 6'6")

Lounge area
3.68m x 4.23m (12'1" x 13'10")

Dining Area
2.17m x 2.60m (7'2" x 8'6")

Garden Room
2.98m x 2.53m (9'9" x 8'3")

Cloakroom

First floor

Master Bedroom with fitted wardrobes
4.57m max x 3.21m (15'0" x 10'6")

En-suite

Bedroom 2
3.45m x 3.03m (11'4" x 9'11")

Bathroom

Hidden Gems

Sit in the heart of the sought after village of Wye are found these two delightful newly built cottages. Chaucer and Pilgrims Cottages have been built to a high standard and are approached via picket fence and gates leading through meandering pathways and mature cottage gardens.

Each cottages benefits from two double bedrooms, with two bathrooms, spacious open plan living accommodation with feature stone fireplace and garden room area with vaulted ceiling. The kitchen is fully fitted with Neff integrated appliances and granite work surfaces. These are secluded rear gardens with patio areas and allocated off street parking. With fitted carpets throughout - the properties are ready to move into immediately.

Chaucer and Pilgrim Cottages are set just off Upper Bridge Street to the rear of the well known Wife of Bath Restaurant, and close to all village amenities. For someone considering down-sizing or a 'lock and leave' property, these hidden gems are situated in this most delightful village and an early viewing is highly recommended.

Guide price £360,000

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HOMES

Ashford property report

Visit homes24.co.uk
it's property for Kent

GET ON HERE: Ashford International station is viewed as a central plank in shaping Ashford's future

Links are everything to this town in the middle

WHILE Kent's coastal towns have benefited from the High Speed Rail Link, the property market in mid-Kent Ashford has been particularly buoyed.

Julie-Anne Marriott, of Marriott Estates, said that while demand was still below pre-recession levels, the outlook was a positive one.

"Demand for properties around the Ashford area is aided by the HS1 service to St Pancras and we believe this will only support and enhance the area further as more companies relocate to the town to take advantage of the strong links to central London and Europe.

"The outlook for Ashford is positive as we are receiving enquiries from buyers in areas not traditionally associated with moving to Kent (*eg* Surrey, Berkshire, Hampshire and north London).

"These buyers realise that they can commute to the City and other parts of central London much faster than from their current homes and purchase properties comparably for a fraction of the cost of staying put.

"With this, of course, they can achieve a much better lifestyle with less stress."

Demand for rental properties is currently outstripping that for residential sales, but the right homes are finding buyers with relative ease.

Ms Marriott said: "There is a remarkable demand for properties to buy in the region of up to £175,000. Semi-rural properties with half acre of land and within driving distance of Ashford International station are also currently in demand.

"The current lack of property sales is due to the strict mortgage lending criteria and the difficulty in raising large deposits.

"For those vendors looking to move upmarket, the gap between selling and asking prices is now much narrower, making the move more affordable."

SPOTLIGHT ON ASHFORD

What makes it special

ASHFORD'S main asset is its location as it benefits from excellent road and rail links. Commuters can reach St Pancras in just 37 minutes via High Speed 1, while the international station opens up Ashford to the Continent, bringing cities such as Paris and Brussels almost within touching distance. With the M20 passing close by, those charged with promoting the town have talked up Ashford as 'Best Placed in Britain'.

More indisputably, Ashford is blessed by some beautiful countryside nearby, notably The Weald, the North Downs and Romney Marsh.

There are pretty villages in the borough, such as Wye, Charing and Bethersden, while the small town of Tenterden is one of Kent's most lovely.

The town centre has seen a redevelopment programme in recent years and now has a 'shared space' section of the reinstated ring road, where pedestrians and vehicles have equal priority. Controversial on its inception in 2008, the scheme has resulted in no serious accidents and brings a feeling of space to the area.

Room to improve

THE term 'urban sprawl' could almost have been invented for Ashford and the extraordinary number of housing estates to have gone up in recent decades has changed the town beyond recognition, many believe for the worse. They lament the loss of countryside and say that the pace and scale of development did little, if anything, for local people, catering solely for those in authority with their own agendas.

The former Stanhope council estate is being revamped to provide affordable homes, and more housing is due to be built in the coming years. Critics say that planners have focused too much on building houses and not spent enough effort on providing the necessary cultural and leisure facilities. Certainly, Ashford has little to offer culturally, although there are signs that at long last the local authority is beginning to address this.

Shops

ASHFORD hosts a number of shopping centres, including the designer outlet near the town centre, which provides a roof for more than 120 retailers; Park Mall in the centre of the town; and County Square. With so many shopping centres on the doorstep, the high street plays host to smaller independent stores as well as bars and boutiques.

Prices

AN apartment in a desirable area can be had from about £115,000, with a two-bedroom house costing some £140,000. A detached four-bedroom family home on an established and popular development may range from £225,000 to more than £325,000.

Schools

THERE are 45 schools in Ashford, including Furley Park, Linden Grove and Victoria Park. Secondary schools include the North and Towers schools, as well as the grammars of Norton Knatchbull (boys) and Highworth (girls).

South Kent College offers a range of further-, higher- and adult-education courses at its Ashford campus.

Connections

GET on a domestic train service and you can be enjoying the sights of London in under 40 minutes; alternatively, you can reach the coast in roughly the same time. Those looking for more of a European twist can board a Eurostar service from Ashford International and head to Paris.

Motorists are equally well served by Ashford, with the nearby M20 running north-west to south-east across the county. Follow the motorway south-east to Folkestone or north-west to the M25, connecting to London and the Home Counties.

What's on

UNFORTUNATELY, the answer is not a lot. St Mary's Church, in the town centre, has been redeveloped to give audiences a better venue to watch concerts and is due to open later this month. Super Furry Animals front-man Gruff Rhys is among the first singers lined up to play at the building.

There a developing visual-arts scene in the town, while more standard entertainment can be found at the large Cineworld cinema on Eureka Park and in a number of nightclubs in the town centre. Create is a large free festival held in Victoria Park each summer.

Around and about

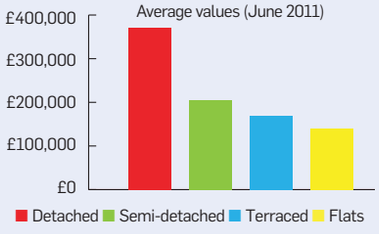
WILLESBOROUGH windmill, built in 1869, is well worth a look. Other tourist attractions include Ashford Borough Museum and Godinton House and Gardens.

HOME VALUES IN KENT

WHAT IS THE ZED-INDEX!

The Zed-Index! is the average home value in a given area based on Zoopla Estimates

Kent Zed-Index! £223,736



Area	Turnover	Zed-index!
Ashford	16.2%	£216,813
Aylesford	15.8%	£225,877
Belvedere	17.4%	£178,578
Bexley	15.6%	£295,512
Bexleyheath	16.7%	£238,903
Birchington	20.2%	£205,345
Broadstairs	18.8%	£221,839
Canterbury	15.2%	£238,605
Chatham	17.5%	£161,525
Cranbrook	13.3%	£374,161
Dartford	15.9%	£207,618
Deal	17.4%	£194,644
Dover	14.4%	£159,485
Edenbridge	13.4%	£386,383
Erith	12.7%	£171,687
Faversham	16.4%	£211,280
Folkestone	16.6%	£175,070
Gillingham	16.2%	£171,993
Gravesend	14.2%	£196,246
Greenhithe	18.9%	£200,194
Herne Bay	19.0%	£192,107
Hythe	17.9%	£250,940
Longfield	15.2%	£287,181
Maidstone	15.8%	£227,078
Margate	16.8%	£152,102
New Romney	20.1%	£208,092
Queenborough	12.3%	£111,020
Rainham	13.6%	£205,751
Ramsgate	16.2%	£154,182
Rochester	15.9%	£182,358
Romney Marsh	17.0%	£182,987
Sandwich	16.0%	£240,636
Sevenoaks	16.2%	£461,367
Sheerness	14.8%	£147,083
Sidcup	17.5%	£252,862
Sittingbourne	16.1%	£185,579
Snodland	16.0%	£168,927
Swanley	13.1%	£222,309
Swanscombe	13.3%	£164,873
Tenterden	16.7%	£322,695
Tonbridge	14.6%	£315,461
Tunbridge Wells	18.1%	£326,713
Welling	16.7%	£233,263
West Malling	18.0%	£338,975
Westerham	17.9%	£338,303
Westgate-On-Sea	18.7%	£167,736
Whitstable	19.7%	£237,975

Source: homes24.co.uk/kent

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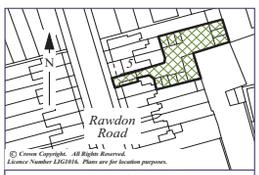

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Site for 3 Flats
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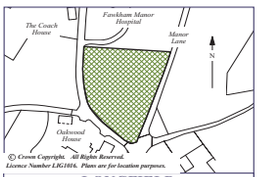

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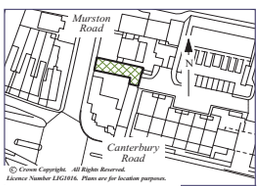

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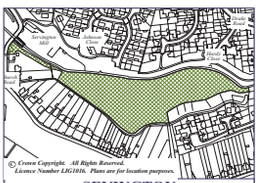

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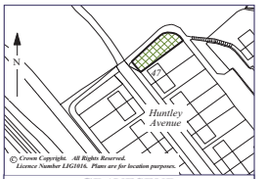

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Check out Chevy's hot summer offers
- Kia cuts VAT to help Ceed succeed
- Fiat 500 spawns suped-up babies

New Range Rover Sport better from the top to the bottom

Driving

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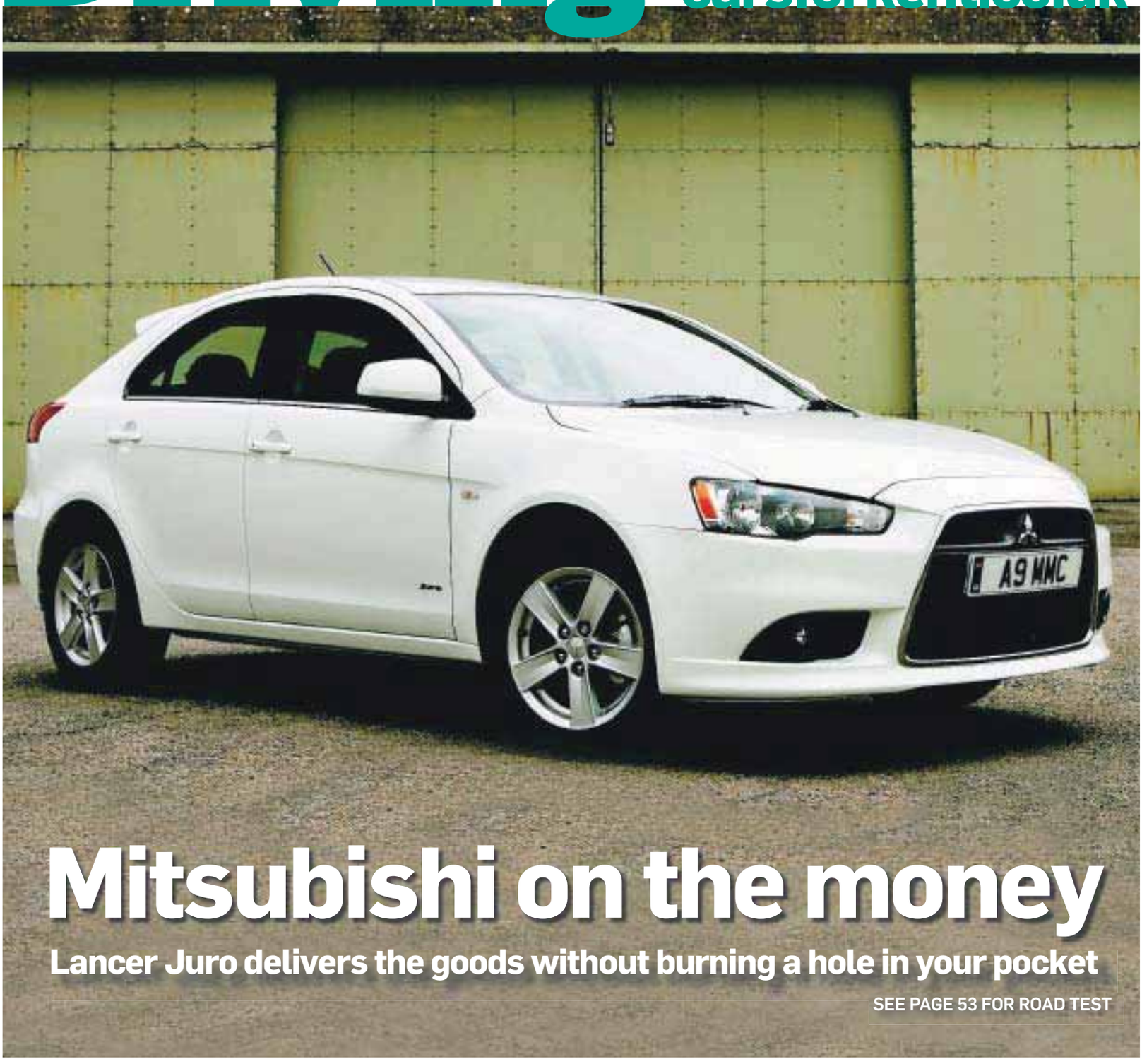

Mitsubishi on the money

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Finance subject to status. Written quotations available on request. Car shown for illustration purposes only. * Price is dependant on using Ford Credit. Metallic paint an optional extra.

Lancer engages the driver

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MITSUBISHI'S Lancer has become something of a 'world car' for the Japanese marque since the first model appeared in 1973.

Early on in the UK it was known as the Colt Lancer, before Mitsubishi decided to market its cars under its real name.

Now into its ninth generation, the Lancer has been seen in many guises around the world, often wearing the badges of different brands, especially on the US market, where it has been seen as a Plymouth, Dodge and Chrysler at various times.

It enjoys world fame, too, as the donor car for Mitsubishi's awesomely-powerful Evo series of road-going rally cars, where modest engines are fettled to almost ridiculous outputs to propel an all-wheel-drive chassis that can work wonders in the hands of even ordinary drivers.

But most Lancers are driven by ordinary drivers tempted by ordinary prices and, in the case of the current model, striking looks.

The latest Lancer pioneered the so-called Jet Fighter nose that has become the corporate face for Mitsubishi cars.

But, as usual, value underpins the Lancer offer and the current magnet is the Juro model tested here in 2.0-litre diesel front-wheel-drive five-door Sportback format.

It's a popular choice because it comes with a powerful yet economical diesel, has hatchback versatility and the Juro is a long-running special edition laden with kit, including a Kenwood integrated sat-nav with reversing camera, leather seats and trimming for the steering wheel and gear knob, iPod and Bluetooth phone connection, smart 16-inch five-spoke alloys, air-con, cruise control, front fogs, steering-wheel controls for the sound system and more.

Such generosity goes a long way to disguise the fact that the Lancer, for all its sharp styling, is far from cutting edge to drive, despite its association with the meat-eating Evo.

The Lancer still hangs on to corners well, with little body roll, but the mainstream versions are set up more for comfort and a light hand on the wheel.

That's good news for the family-market target, though, which will find it hard to source such a roomy and comfortable car at this sort of price and specification, and with Mitsubishi's reputation for reliability.

And while priced to undercut most mainstream family hatchbacks, the Lancer is actually a bit bigger all-round, like its most obvious rival, the Skoda Octavia.

But don't dismiss it as a 'never mind the quality feel the width' proposition because the Lancer is worth more than that.

Those leather seats feel supportive and comfortable and there is decent room for three in the back, plus that big hatchback load space with a clever split-level feature, though some might ditch that convenience in favour of the saloon version's smarter rear end, more in harmony with the Lancer's aggressive front.

Closer inspection of the interior trimming might also reveal that it does not quite live up to the quality of the Juro's leather seats, but the fixtures and fittings are durable enough.

And life inside the cabin is pretty well insulated from both engine and road.

The VW-sourced two-litre diesel engine is a boon: powerful (138bhp) yet economical, it pulls well from low down the rev range and delivers an average mpg in the mid-40s, helped by a light six-speed gearbox.

Prices for this engine start at £16,399 and with the model tested here, but there are 1.5- and 1.8-litre petrol alternatives.

However, these offer predictably poor fuel consumption and performance and very little upfront price benefits against the diesel plus Juro pairing – no wonder it has been a sales success for dealers.

MITSUBISHI LANCER 2.0 JURO SPORTBACK : £16,300

DRIVER'S CAR: The Mitsubishi Lancer Juro Sportback, with striking jet-fighter grille, is good value for money and comes laden with kit

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£165/year
Best rival:	Skoda Octavia

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Savings Spark Chevy's deals

CHEVROLET has launched hot summer offers with savings of up to £2,000 across the range, including the new Captiva SUV and Orlando MPV, above.

There's tempting monthly payment contract hire plans, with the most affordable deal a Spark 1.0+ city car at £6,995 including Chevy's standard five-year warranty and a saving of £1,700 against list price.

VAT reduction will suc-Ceed

KIA won't be outdone – it has cut VAT to just 7 per cent on most Ceed family models.

There is also a Scrappage-style £2,000 offer on the table for anyone trading a seven- to 10-year-old car against a new Rio supermini or Venga mini-MPV (pictured), plus big discounts off the Sorento SUV and Carens MPV (both £1,500) and Soul 'Echo' crossover (£1,000).

Suped-up 500 is even better

FIAT's multi-award-winning TwinAir engine has spawned a new sub-brand for the popular 500 baby car.

Fiat has created sporty and assertive TwinAir versions (from £11,600) with black alloys and a burnished-metal-effect dashboard, plus front and rear mouldings, spoiler, chrome exhaust pipe and sports seats.

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08 08 Ford Focus 1.6 Style Estate, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Black, 33k £6995
07 57 Honda Jazz 1.4 I-DSI SE, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Blue, 25k £6995
08 08 Nissan Note 1.6 Tekna Auto, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Caffe Latte, 33k £6995
07 57 Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Bluetooth, Black, 32k £10995
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08 57 Skoda Fabia 1.4 2 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Silver, 15k £6195
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08 08 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Life Auto Estate, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, R/C/L, Silver, 12k £5995
07 57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Club 5DR, 2 Owner, S/History, A/C, Silver, 11k £6295
08 08 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Design Auto Estate, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Silver, 30k ..... SOLD
07 57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 CDTI Design 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Lancelot, 30k £6995
07 57 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Design Sport Hatch 3DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Silver, 26k £6995
08 08 Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Exclusive, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Blue, 21k £6995
10 10 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SXI 5DR, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, Alloys, Silver, 10k £8995
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New-look Range Rover Sport is ticking even more boxes

LAND Rover has given the Range Rover Sport more than a facelift for 2011 – it now has a more powerful yet more efficient turbodiesel engine.

There is also a revised 503bhp 5.0-litre supercharged V8 petrol unit offering 0-62mph in five seconds for those who want the 'Sport' label to mean what it says.

Then there are chassis changes: Active Damping and a full Brembo brake system to bring the burly Range Rover to a quick stop.

But the Sport has also had the cosmetic treatment to help tackle some rivals that have come along lately. Instead of the chunky front grille, there is a more integrated nose, while front and rear light clusters now boast LED units in keeping with the current trend.

It all adds up to a more cohesive look that continues with a refined premium cabin: the dark plastic centre console has given way to a soft-touch, colour-coordinated central fascia; the leather seating is more upmarket; and the electronics now include five cameras for a 360-degree view to assist with parking.

Rear passengers benefit from a premium multimedia system, and all seats come with heating and cooling.

What hasn't changed is the lofty driving position that many previous owners have enjoyed having, combined with the car's known capability on- and off-road.

Of course, the beefy V8 will catch the headlines, but even its more modest thirst this time won't help it win out on the sales front; the TDV6 diesel (from £55,145) is going to be the winner there by far, with an average around 30mpg.

Astra Ecoflexes its muscle

VAUXHALL claims its new Astra Ecoflex is one of the cleanest and most efficient compact cars in the UK.

Capable of averaging almost 80mpg and escaping road tax through CO_2 emissions of just 99g/km, the figures would seem to underline that claim.

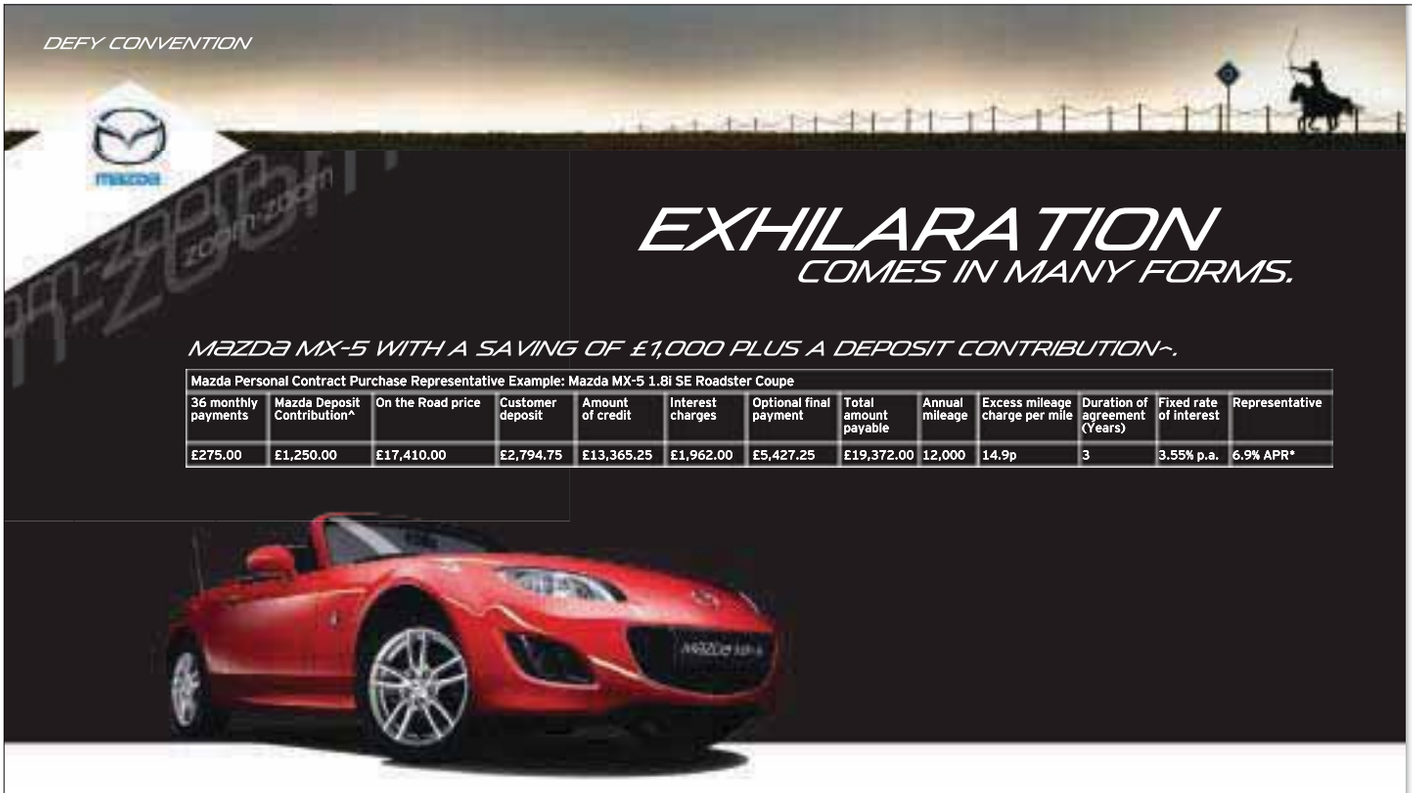
Power comes from a 128bhp 1.7 CDTi diesel that also delivers lots of pulling power low down the rev range, using tweaks like lower-friction components and more accurate combustion control.

It also has a customised low-friction six-speed gearbox tuned to work with the new version of the engine, plus Vauxhall's first version of an energy recovery system for the brakes.

The General Motors brand calls it an 'energy-recuperation system' and, like that seen on other marques, it stores the saved energy in the battery and allows the conventional charging system via the alternator to be offline for much of the time, thereby reducing the drain on the engine and fuel.

There is also a start-stop system to conserve fuel in town traffic.

Aerodynamic nips and tucks plus low-rolling resistance tyres complete the eco package on the model which arrives later this year – prices will be available shortly.



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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda MX-5 range: Urban 25.4 (11.1) - 28.8 (9.8), Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2) - 50.4 (5.6), Combined 35.3 (8.0) - 39.8 (7.1). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 188 - 167

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2000 FORD FIESTA 1.2 Zetec 2K, 5 dr, manual, blue, CD, pas, e/w £1,495
2001 ROVER 25 1.4 3 dr hatchback, silver, tax and MOT, economical SOLD and cheap tax and insurance £895
1998 PEUGOT 106 XN Zest 2, silver, 1100 cc, patterned blue cloth interior, economy in MPG and price £895
2001 ROVER 25 1.4 3 dr hatchback, silver, manual, tax and MOT SOLD £895
1997 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 3 dr hatchback, alloys, sunroof, met blue SOLD £895
2003 Fiat Punto 1.2 Active, 5 dr hatchback, metallic blue, manual, e/w, pas, etc £1995

GENERAL CARS

2001 HONDA ACCORD 2.0 auto, 5 dr, silver, all usual extras including e/w, pas, cruise, alloys £1,995
2001 Peugot 406 2.0 HDi Diesel Estate, manual, metallic blue, e/w, pas, tax and MOT £1295
2003 Lexus IS 300 SE Automatic, green with full tan leather interior, full Lexus history £3995
1999 BMW 323 SE AUTO, blue, full history, 4 dr saloon, all usual refinements £1995
2000 SAAB 9-5 2.3 estate, blue, manual, black leather, all extras, CD, new tyres, Immaculate for year, drives as new .£2,295
1999 BMW 535 SE auto, top of the range saloon, £35,000 new, lovely condition, grey, black leather, alloys, CD, etc .£1,995
1999 BMW 323i SE 4 dr saloon, black, with full M3 grey leather SOLD trim, alloys, CD radio, immac for year £1,995
1999 VW Golf 1.6 SE 5 sp Manual, green, 5 dr hatch, e/w, PAS SOLD, A/C with 1 year MOT + 6 mths tax £1,795

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1998 BMW Z3 2.8 manual, blue with black elec roof, alloys, wide wheel arch model £3,995
2002 SAAB VECTOR 2.0 Convertible, High Output Turbo, Silver SOLD Manual, Tax and MOT, alloys, e/roof £2,995
1999 SAAB 9-3 COVERTIBLE 2.0 AUTO, 63k with FULL SERVICE HISTORY, met green with black hood and cream leather trim .. £1,995
1998 SAAB 900 2.0 CONVERTIBLE, all usual extras, alloys, blue SOLD, black roof £995

3 FOR THE LADIES

1999 FORD PUMA, 1.7 3 dr coupe, manual, Silver, alloys, new engine and clutch, 1 yr MOT, ... £1,595
1999 FORD PUMA, 1.7 3 dr coupe, manual, Met Green, alloys, lovely condition, 1 year MOT, 6 mths tax £1,595
1997 VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 Bermuda, met green sporty coupe, tax and MOT £1,295

P/X BARGAINS (All with 1 years MOT)

1997 FORD ESCORT 1.8 Ghia X 5 dr hatchback, red, walnut dash SOLD with luxury velour trim, s/r, alloys, only 75000 miles with S/H, ... £1,195
1995 MERCEDES C180, 4dr saloon, blue, grey cloth trim, S/R, manual, 1yr MOT, CD radio £995
1996 VW Passat estate, turbo diesel 1.9, manual, tax and test, green £895
1996 SKODA FELICIA 5 dr hatchback, red, 1.6, tax and test £895
1999 HYUNDAI 1.6 COUPE, 2 dr, silver, tax and mot £995
1995 FORD MONDEO 1.8 4 dr saloon, blue, tax and test £495

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2005/05 PLATE CITROEN C3 1.4 DESIRE 5 DOOR

in metallic chilli red with contrasting red and black cloth interior air conditioning remote control central locking electric windows c/d in car entertainment system power steering multiple airbag protection system under seat storage compartments this car is offered with one owner form new, low tax and insurance group at only **£3,995**

2006/56 PLATE VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SX 5 DOOR

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2006/55 PLATE FORD FOCUS C-MAX 1.8 GHIA 5 DOOR

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2003/53 PLATE MERCEDES CLK270 CDI AVANTGARDE AUTO 3 DOOR

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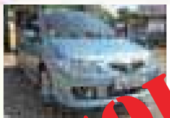

2003/03 PLATE MAZDA PREMACY 2.0 SPORT 5 DOOR

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2007/07 PLATE FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR

in ocean blue metallic with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning alloy wheels remote control central locking electric windows front fog lights drivers seat height adjustment c/d in car entertainment system multiple airbag protection system electric adjustable door mirrors this car is one owner from new with a full service history **£5,995**

2007/07 PLATE VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE 1.3 CDTI ESTATE DIESEL

in metallic royal blue with contrasting black cloth interior air con electric windows multiple airbag protection system 6 speed gearbox c/d in car entertainment system remote control central locking drivers seat height adjustment full service history great fuel economy 6 speed gearbox and diesel engine sensibly priced at only **£4,995**

2005/05 PLATE RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 4 DOOR

in metallic lighting red with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows multiple airbag protection system drivers seat height adjustment remote control central locking front fog lights alloy wheels c/d in car entertainment system rear sun blinds this car is offered with only 47,000 miles from new and a full service history **£3,995**

2002/02 PLATE VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0 SE AUTO 4 DOOR

in metallic charcoal grey with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows remote control central locking alloy wheels c/d in car entertainment system electric adjustable door mirrors drivers seat height adjustment multiple airbag protection system this car offers great value for money **£3,495**

2007/56 PLATE SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 GL 3 DOOR

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2009(09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles.....£7,495
2009(09) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....£6,995
2009(09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles.....£6,995
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2009(59) CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 400 miles.....£8,995
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2007(07) CITROEN XSARA PICASSO VTX 16V ESTATE AUTO, WICKED RED, 13000 miles.....£5,995
2006(06) CITROEN XSARA PICASSO DESIRE 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....£4,995

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2010(1) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....£9,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles.....£8,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....£7,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 12000 miles.....£7,495
2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles.....£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles.....£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles.....£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 9000 miles.....£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, METRO BLUE, 8000 miles.....£6,495
2007(07) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 39000 miles.....£5,995
2005(05) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 25000 miles.....£4,995

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2008(08) MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 22000 miles.....£9,995
2008(08) MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO, GOLD, 18000 miles.....£9,995
2008(58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles.....£9,995
2008(08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....£8,995
2007(56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles.....£5,495
2006(56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 22000 miles.....£4,995

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2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....£8,995
2007(57) SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....£7,495
2009(59) SUZUKI ALTO SZ4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....£6,995

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2010(10) TOYOTA VERSO TR VALVEMATIC MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....£14,995
2006(56) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT4 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 35000 miles.....£12,995
2010(60) TOYOTA YARIS TR VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....£10,995
2010(10) TOYOTA AYGO BLUE VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CARIBBEAN BLUE, 6000 miles.....£7,995
2005(05) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 10000 miles.....£6,995
2008(08) TOYOTA YARIS TR MMT 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 33000 miles.....£6,495
2003(03) TOYOTA YARIS CDX VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 46000 miles.....£4,995
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2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....£16,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 7000 miles.....£16,995
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2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FADED DENIM, 19000 miles.....£14,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles.....£13,995
2010(60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles.....£11,995
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, INFERNO RED, 2000 miles.....£11,995
2011(60) NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles.....£11,495
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2008(08) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles....£8,995
2009(59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles....£8,995
2009(09) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles....£8,495
2009(58) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 7000 miles....£7,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 3000 miles....£7,495
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles....£6,995
2008(08) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 19000 miles....£6,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 11000 miles....£6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles....£6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles....£6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles....£6,995
2008(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles....£6,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles....£6,495
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2005(05) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles....£4,995
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2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 15000 miles....£9,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles....£9,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, TECHNICAL GREY, 5000 miles....£9,495
2010(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles....£9,495
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles....£8,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles....£8,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles....£8,495
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles....£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 14000 miles....£6,495
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles....£6,495
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles....£6,495
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles....£5,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 16000 miles....£5,995

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2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 900 miles....£14,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles....£13,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles....£10,995

ASTRA ESTATES
2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles....£9,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 7000 miles....£6,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles....£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles....£6,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 19000 miles....£5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA
2010(10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles....£9,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 13000 miles....£8,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles....£8,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 9000 miles....£8,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles....£8,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 12000 miles....£8,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles....£8,495
2008(08) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles....£6,995

PEUGEOT
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles....£13,995
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles....£10,995
2010(10) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, IRON GREY, 2000 miles....£9,995
2008(08) PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles....£8,995
2008(08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles....£8,995
2008(08) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles....£7,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, RED, 23000 miles....£7,495
2007(57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles....£6,995
2008(08) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2-TRONIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 12000 miles....£5,995

MITSUBISHI
2007(57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles....£6,995

HONDA
2008(57) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, WHISTLER SILVER, 12000 miles....£17,995
2008(57) HONDA CR-V ES AUTO 5DR AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles....£17,995
2007(07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles....£16,995
2006(06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles....£11,995
2009(09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles....£9,995
2008(58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles....£9,495
2006(06) HONDA ACCORD EX VTEC SALOON AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 13000 miles....£8,995
2005(55) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 48000 miles....£5,995

MERCEDES
2008(58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles....£13,995

MERCEDES
2009(59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles....£13,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles....£12,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles....£12,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles....£9,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles....£9,995

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2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 7000 miles....£11,995
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIAMOND BLACK, 11000 miles....£11,995
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH TDI 105 DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles....£11,995
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles....£10,995
2009(59) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 780 miles....£9,995
2009(09) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles....£8,995
2008(58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles....£8,995
2009(09) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles....£8,995
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles....£7,995
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles....£6,995
2003(53) VOLKSWAGEN POLO TWIST 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 32000 miles....£4,495

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2010(60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles....£15,995
2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles....£14,995
2009(59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles....£13,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles....£12,995
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH TDI 105 DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles....£11,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 1.4 16V 3DR, GREY, 18000 miles....£8,495
2008(08) NISSAN MICRA VISIA CC MANUAL CONVERTIBLE, CHAMPAGNE, 6000 miles....£7,995
2005(05) TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T2 VVT-I MPV, SILVER STEEL, 9000 miles....£6,495
2004(54) VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT 16V TWINPORT CABRIO, BLUE, 21000 miles....£5,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles....£5,495
2005(55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 35000 miles....£4,995
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2002(52) VAUXHALL ASTRA LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 49000 miles....£2,495

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2008(58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles....£7,995
2008(08) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles....£7,495

QASHQAI
2010(60) NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC PLUS 2 4X4 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 200 miles....£22,495
2010(60) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, NIGHTSHADE, 4000 miles....£19,995
2010(59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles....£17,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles....£16,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, FIRED IRON, 17000 miles....£15,995
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles....£15,495
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles....£14,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FADED DENIM, 19000 miles....£14,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles....£13,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 13000 miles....£12,495
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 21000 miles....£11,995

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2010(60) MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1700 miles....£14,995
2006(06) MINI COOPER S MINI COOPER S 3DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 35000 miles....£9,495

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2008(08) VAUXHALL VECTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles....£7,995

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2008(08) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, AMETHYST, 5000 miles....£7,995
2008(08) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 5000 miles....£6,995
2008(08) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, OCEANBLUE, 18000 miles....£6,495

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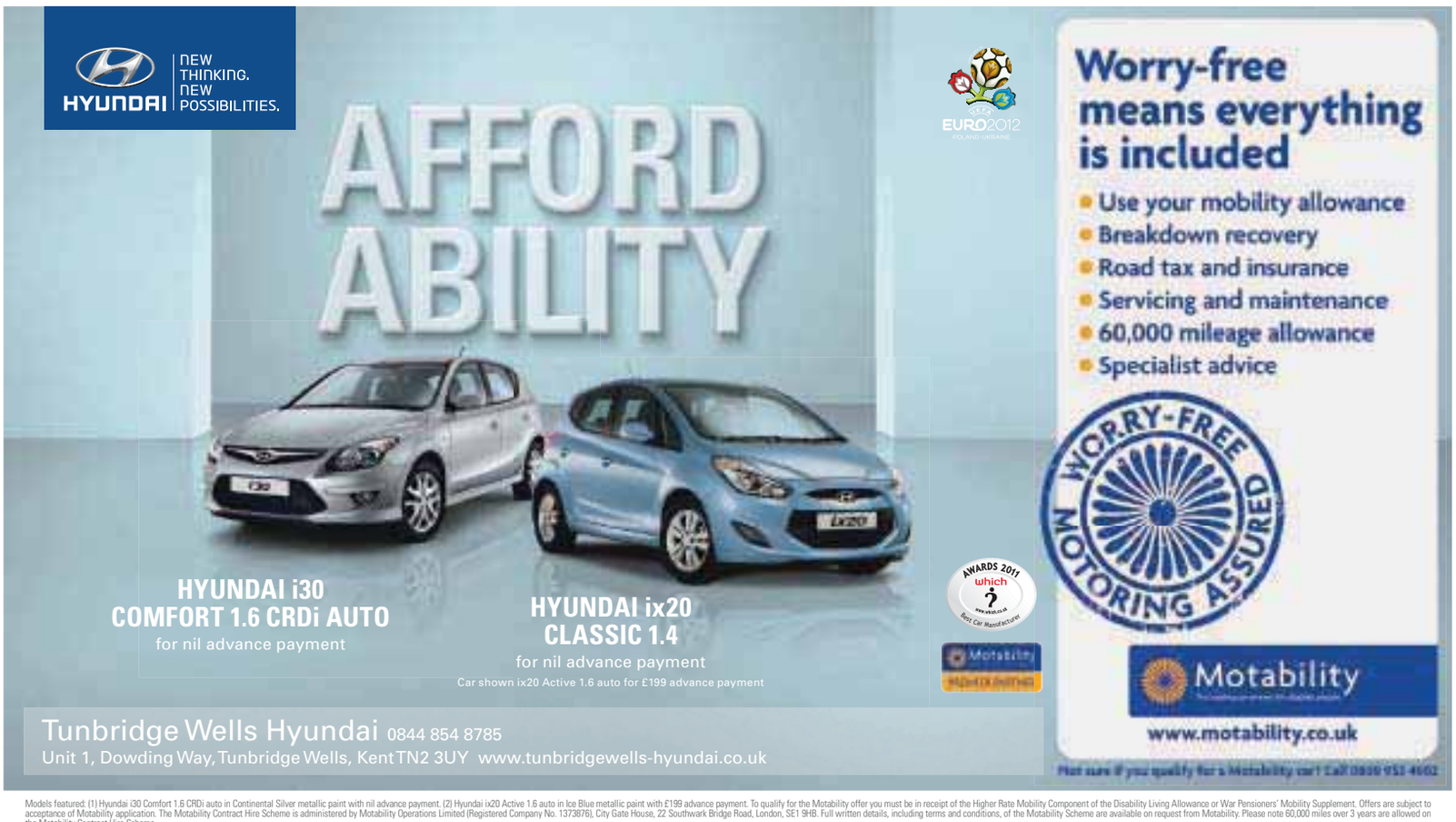

Models featured: (1) Hyundai i30 Comfort 1.6 CRDi auto in Continental Silver metallic paint with nil advance payment. (2) Hyundai ix20 Active 1.6 auto in Ice Blue metallic paint with £199 advance payment. To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix20 range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 60.1 (4.7), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) - 67.3 (4.2), Combined 43.6 (6.5) - 65.7 (4.3), CO_2 Emissions 154 - 114 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i30 Comfort 1.6 CRDi auto: Urban 40.4 (7.0), Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 49.6 (5.7), CO_2 Emissions 150 g/km.

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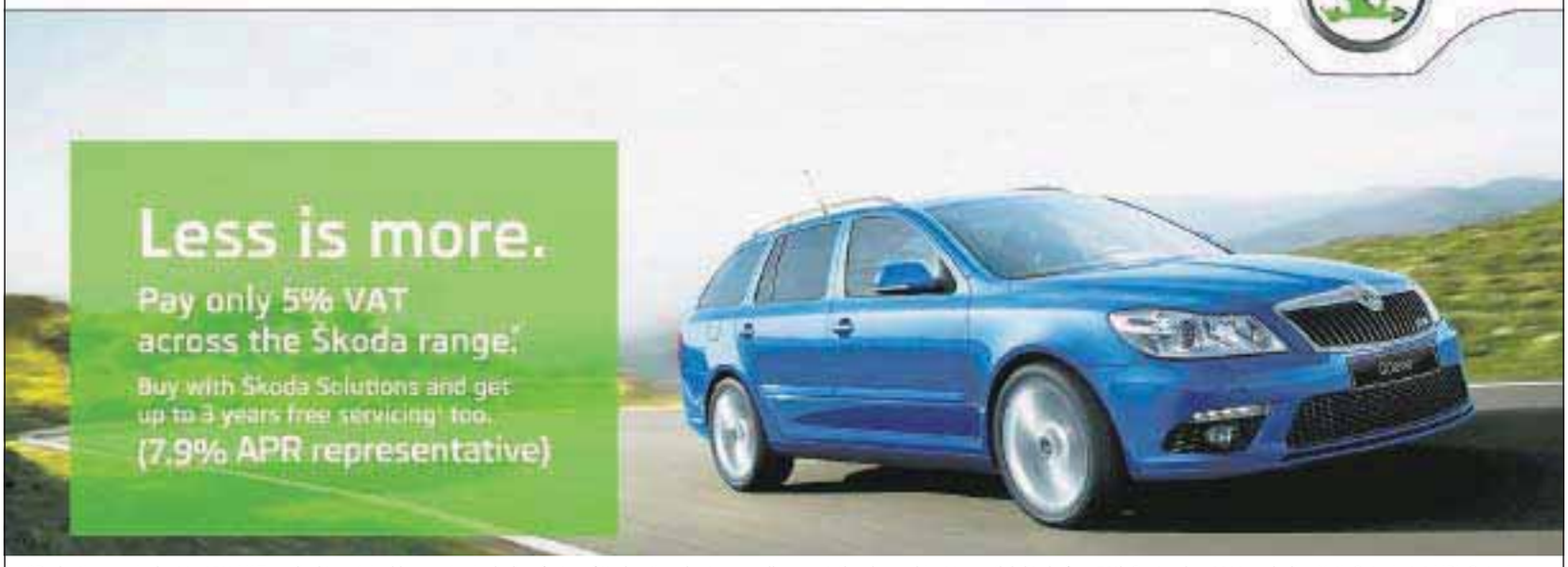

*Reduction equivalent to 15% VAT applied to original base price including factory fitted optional extras on all new retail orders subject to availability before 30th September 2011 excluding Yeti, Octavia 1.6 MPI, Octavia Scout and Superb diesels. VAT is still applicable and will appear on the invoice. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. †3 years or 30,000 miles free servicing (whichever comes first). Available when purchased with Solutions. 7.9% APR representative. Available on all new retail orders subject to availability before 30th September 2011 excluding Octavia 1.6 MPI. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available for over 18's. Excludes the Channel Islands. Škoda Finance. Freepost Škoda Finance. Terms and conditions apply. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at anytime. Model shown varies from UK specification.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO2 emissions for the Škoda range 237 – 89g/km.

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MAZDA'S NEW MX-5 HARD ACT TO FOLLOW

SEE PAGE 80

FIAT TURNS THE CLOCK BACK WITH FUN 500C

SEE PAGE 81

Soft Top Buyer's Guide

CLASS ACT: Mercedes-Benz E-Class Cabriolet – this premium soft-top model can emulate the refinement of a conventional roofed equivalent

Driving a soft bargain

By Sam Davison

BRITAIN is one of Europe's top markets for convertibles.

It sounds crazy when another UK top trump is our wet climate, but maybe getting the top down is all the more important to us when the opportunity comes so rarely.

Then there's the heritage factor: UK manufacturers were early leaders in open-top motoring, with classics including the three-wheeler Morgans – soon to be revived – Triumph TRs, glorious Jaguar XKs and E-Type and, course, MGs.

Indeed, after the Second World War, markets all around the globe bought into the British open-top motoring phenomenon as UK car-makers were driven to export and pull the country out of post-war depression.

But then the doldrums set in for wind-in-the-hair driving. As the UK car industry declined, diverting valuable research and development into a niche market could not be justified.

Classics like the MGB were allowed to become outmoded and the few imported convertibles available tended to be equally flaky or exhorbitant luxuries.

Then Mazda created the MX-5 in the late 1980s. It could have worn a Triumph or MG badge, but while those marques undoubtedly inspired it, they could not emulate its balance and reliability.

REFRESHING: MG TF, left, upholds a classic heritage for the open-top sports car sector in the UK. which dates back to WWII, while the Renault Wind, right, is one of a new breed of folding hard-top models

Starved of affordable crop-top motoring for so long, the British public couldn't get enough MX-5s and soon there were other players, including a comeback MG, returning to its traditional market with the MG F in 1995, and then dramatically facelifting it as the MG TF, pictured, in 2002. The TF continues to be produced by the Chinese-owned company that acquired the rights to the model after MG Rover's collapse in 2005.

The MX-5 also brought something else to open-top motoring: a properly-weathertight roof that could be raised or lowered in seconds and, if you were strong enough, single-handedly from the driver's seat.

As more convertibles entered the market, so the quality of weather and sound insulation improved. Heated-glass rear screens also became the norm and many premium models also came with electric power for raising and lowering.

And there was another innovation: Mercedes-Benz came into the two-seat roadster market with the SLK in 1996, featuring a folding hard top.

Others rushed to copy the idea – Mazda even added this option to the MX-5 range.

The innovation showed you could now have a convertible that was more secure and usually more refined than one with a soft top; no longer seen as a 'holidays and high days' car, here was a dream motor that you really could justify as your everyday or even company car.

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Mazda architect of open-top boom

MAZDA'S MX-5 success story almost went untold. The first sketch for a new Mazda roadster was penned in 1979, yet the project languished for almost 10 years until a clear concept emerged:

- front engine
- rear-wheel drive
- sporty short-throw gear
- classic two-seater with long bonnet and short rear end
- genuinely weatherproof folding soft top
- Japanese reliability

In essence, it was a reincarnation of the British sports car epitomised by the MGB but lost as the British motor industry foundered upon strikes and plummeting quality.

The original MX-5 arrived here in 1990 and rival manufacturers soon wanted a slice of the cake, but Mazda keeps tweaking the recipe and released a string of highly desirable special and limited editions such as the yellow California, the wine-coloured Merlot and the Racing Green Gleneagles.

The Mk 1 MX-5 with pop-up headlamps, 'finger pull' chrome door handles and styling reminiscent of the classic Lotus Elan lasted eight years before replacement by the Mk 2, replaced in turn by the current Mk 3 in 2005.

The exterior styling may have changed, but these new cars retained the chassis layout, balance and fun-to-drive formula while offering more comfort and space for passengers and their luggage.

Engine performance grew, though: the original car's 1.6-litre four-cylinder engine offered 116bhp, but power options now range from a 1.8-litre with 126bhp and a 2.0-litre unit with 160bhp – the latter coming with a five- or six-speed gearbox, according to spec.

Further choice also extends to whether you want the classic soft-top model or the increasingly popular Roadster Coupe with its folding hard top – a fun car that genuinely can be your everyday transport all-year round.

In action, the electric roof is fascinating (see the accompanying sequence), but it is also a marvel of design, especially as Mazda engineers have enabled it to fold behind the two seats without robbing any boot space – sometimes a penalty with folding hard tops.

Demand for the MX-5 also keeps second-hand values high, so your investment is well protected.

FOLD-UP FUN: The Mazda MX-5 just keeps getting better, and the Roadster Coupe, with its folding hardtop, right, is proving increasingly popular

36 monthly payments	Mazda Deposit Contribution^	On the Road price	Customer deposit	Amount of credit	Interest charges	Optional final payment	Total amount payable	Annual mileage	Excess mileage charge per mile	Duration of agreement (Years)	Fixed rate of interest	
Mazda Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example: Mazda2 Black												
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Mazda Personal Contract Purchase Example: Mazda MX-5 Sport Black												
£368.84	£1,250.00	£21,745.00	£3,500.00	£18,245.00	£2,704.49	£7,671.25	£25,699.49	10,000	14.9p	3 years	3.55% p.a.	6.9% APR*

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda Range: Urban 21.4 (13.2) - 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 37.7 (7.5) - 76.3 (3.7), Combined 29.4 (9.6) - 67.3 (4.2). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 224 - 110.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered between 1 July and 30 September 2011. Terms and conditions apply. *6.9% finance available on all Mazda models. ^Mazda Deposit Contribution available only in conjunction with Mazda Personal Contract Purchase. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Models shown: Mazda2 Black. OTR price £12,815. Mazda2 Black features optional metallic/pearlescent paint (£410). Mazda MX-5 Sport Black. OTR price includes metallic/mica/pearlescent paint £22,995. On the road price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. °Test drive subject to status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print.

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Retro retractable-roof star ahead of the rest

IN KEEPING with the UK's status as a leader in the open-top market, Fiat decided that its 500C convertible should go on sale here before anywhere else in the world – including Fiat's home market of Italy.

As its hatchback parent model does to the 1950s 500 Nuevo model, the 500C pays homage to the original 1957 fabric-roof version of that same car.

However, it is 50 years ahead in terms of refinement and convenience: aerodynamic research means that turbulence with the roof open has been reduced to a minimum, while an electric sliding roof makes the 500C a whole-year-round proposition.

The new Fiat 500C has an exclusive feel to its interior, with quality desirable fabrics and optional Frau leather upholstery, and a long list of standard and optional features from automatic climate control to innovative Interscope hi-fi, and from the Blue&Me Map portable navigation unit to a smart windstop.

There is also plenty of choice on powertrains, including a 1.3-litre diesel for ultimate economy, but the smart choice is the low-emission 0.9-litre TwinAir petrol unit.

This award-winning two-cylinder turbocharged marvel manages to deliver economy and road tax-free emission levels plus lively performance when required.

REVIVING HISTORY: The Fiat 500C pays homage to the original 1957 Nuevo

SLEEK: The third-generation SLK is inspired by classic Mercedes coupes from the past

SLK's class shines through in search for finest croptop

MERCEDES-BENZ pioneered the current trend for folding hard-top convertibles when it launched the first-generation modern SLK in 1996.

Its 2004 replacement carried the feature forward and, crowning a far more stylish body, included a front end inspired by the McLaren Mercedes SLR supercar.

This year, there's a third- generation model with a front end inspired by classic Merc coupés of the past.

The interior is well arranged and easy to get into, especially when you may have waited a long time to realise a two-seat dream.

Once in motion, it feels solid even with the roof down and is that rare sports car truly suited to a long-distance business meeting or weekend away; the folded roof steals boot space, but there is room for two decent-size soft bags and plenty of stowage inside the cabin.

The folding roof also has a clever feature that allows it to be see-through or dark at the flick of a switch, the former allowing you to enjoy an open-air thrill without exposure to the elements.

As ever with Mercedes-Benz, a smooth automatic gearbox is available, though a manual 'box will be first choice for many sports-car fans, especially if they want to exploit the SLK's well-balanced rear-driven chassis.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500 1.2 Pop mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions: Urban 49.6 (5.7), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), and Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO2 emissions 113 g/km. Finance example shown is based on 6000 miles pa. Excess mileage charge applies at 6p per mile. Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE. 47033

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Renault's touch of glass

RENAULT decided to take the folding hard-top coupé-cabriolet format one stage further by launching one with a glass roof.

And you can't help but admire the thinking behind it: why not have the feel of open-air motoring even with the roof up?

The first take on this was the Megane Coupé-Cabriolet of 2006, replaced by a smarter and more premium version in 2009 spun from the new-look Megane hatchback range.

The glass roof is an engineering tour de force created in partnership with German motor specialist Karmann, which created the original VW Beetle Convertible – now very collectible.

OUTSIDE IN: Renault Megane Coupé-Cabriolet's glass roof gives the driver the feeling they are driving with the roof down, even if they are not

Perhaps the Megane will emulate that long-running desire by truly making its passengers feel that they are travelling roof-down even when the elements dictate that they cannot.

Combined with the fact that the latest-generation Megane CC can also carry two adults in the back, it does make this car a serious contender for everyday motoring and long-distance mileages.

On top of that, Renault offers a typically crowd-pleasing list of alternative powertrains, including three diesel and pet rol units apiece.

Cabin quality is a major advance on the previous car and the Megane also comes with lots of standard equipment to challenge premium contenders, on top of the advantage of that clever roof.

FACELIFT: The new 9-3 has a fresh look that separates it from the saloon and Sportswagon models

Saab 9-3 brought up to date

IT'S a classic tale of Saab – how a comparatively small carmaker took on the big boys and won.

The Swedish brand, already famous for developing smaller turbocharged engines, then tackled major names like Mercedes-Benz and BMW by launching a premium convertible in the late 1980s – and it sold like hotcakes.

That original 900 made way for a smaller and lighter successor and that in turn led to the modern day 9-3, newly facelifted and given its own distinct and harmonious identity compared with its saloon and SportWagon sister models.

The car feels as refined with top up as those sisters, while the ability to carry four in comfort with top down makes it a rarity in a market where 'four-seat convertible' should often be read as '2+2 convertible'.

The roof is fast-acting – 20 seconds to raise or lower at the touch of a button – and is a hydraulically-powered triple-layer unit that automatically self-latches to the windshield header rail.

The all-turbo powertrain line-up comprises a powerful 1.9-litre twin turbodiesel delivering up to 180bhp plus 54.3mpg combined cycle fuel consumption and CO_2 emissions of just 137g/km.

For sportier performance there are also several 2.0-litre turbo petrol-engine options. All variants are fitted with a highly efficient, dual-zone automatic climate control, adapted for the specific needs of a convertible.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault range are: Urban 26.6-55.4 (10.6-5.1), Extra Urban 41.5-70.6 (6.8-4.0), Combined 34.4-64.2 (8.2-4.4). The official CO2 emission figures for the range are 217-115g/km.
Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 20% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Finance is subject to status, a guarantor may be required, written quotations on request. Finance provided by Renault UK and RCI Financial Services Limited, P.O. Box 493 Watford WD17 1FJ.
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Official Government Environmental Test Data. Saab 9-3 Range. Fuel consumption mpg (litres/100km): Urban 15.2 – 40.9 (18.6 – 6.9), Extra-urban 36.2 – 67.3 (7.8 – 4.2), Combined 24.1 – 54.3 (11.7 – 5.2). CO_2 emissions 279 – 137g/km. Model shown is the MY11 9-3 Linear SE 1.8t Manual Convertible at manufactures recommended retail price of £27,364 OTR with optional metallic paint at £536 and 17" alloy wheels at £409.

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IMMACULATE: Months of work has gone into Open preparations

Big names give 'fairer' course thumbs-up on eve of championship

THE early prognosis of the Royal St George's course from some of the best players in the world has been universally favourable.

Rory McIlroy was among the stars to spend time at the club this week, fine-tuning before the official first practice day on Sunday.

The verdict from the Northern Irishman is far better than in 2003, when the Open was last held in Kent. In the middle of a hot summer players complained the course was too dry and the fairways too undulating, leading to perfect drives being flicked into the deep rough.

To the pleasure of Graham Royden, head greenkeeper at Royal St George's, there should be no repeat this time.

He said: "The reports from the players is the course is playing a lot fairer than in 2003 and they seem to like the way the course has been set up this year.

"We have given them more room on some of the fairways and the rough is not as penal as it was eight years ago. They feel now if they hit a good drive on to the fairway it will stay there.

"That includes Rory McIlroy, Lee Westwood, Luke Donald and Ernie Els. I'm delighted with the comments, they're the ones who will be playing and they give the ultimate feedback.

"I'm extremely confident we're in the perfect position a few days before the start of the championship, we couldn't be in a better place."

Royden's team of greenkeepers moved to the course on Saturday and will remain onsite for 11 days to ensure the course remains in perfect condition.

Their days will begin with a briefing at 3.30am and the entire course will be cut by the time most spectators arrive at 9am.

Royal St George's set for The Open spotlight

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

THE biggest show in golf returns to Kent next week with bumper crowds preparing to flock to the coast to watch the world's best players battle for the right to be called Open champion.

More than 180,000 fans are expected to head to Royal St George's in Sandwich, which is hosting the tournament for the first time in eight years.

The public will be able to watch the field in practice from Sunday ahead of the championship beginning for real with the opening round on Thursday. From there the intensity will steadily build to next Sunday, with the final round to decide the winner of the 140th Open Championship.

It is predicted to inject about £80 million into the county's economy, but the beauty of it for sports fans is the rare opportunity to watch a genuinely world-class event on your doorstep.

Chris Aked, a PGA professional at Royal Blackheath who has been assisting Archant KOS Media's coverage in the build-up to The Open, summed up the tournament's significance.

He said: "It's the oldest major tournament in the world and is the ultimate title for any golfer to win.

"There's something special about it because of the history and it's great for everyone in Kent to have it come to our backyard."

Even the most experienced of the 156 players who stand on the first tee on Thursday will have their hearts pounding. All will know golfing immortality awaits if they can find their best form for four days.

Padraig Harrington knows better than most the thrill of lifting the Claret Jug as he goes in search of his third title in five years.

"[Winning] was a big deal and certainly when I started off I never believed it was possible," he said. "It was a big step up - I suppose it did change my life in some ways.

"Whatever I do in my career, when I finish at the top of my CV is 'three-time major winner'. Hopefully there will be more, but I'll always be judged on my major record."

The strength in depth means very few of the field can be ruled out from finishing on top next weekend. The unfancied outsiders will no doubt take heart from the last time St George's hosted the tournament, in 2003, when world number 396 Ben Curtis stunned everyone to win.

The American will be a proud man as he makes a return to the scene of his greatest victory this week.

He said: "It's very special, no doubt. Royal St George's is obviously very dear to my heart and I've got a lot of fond memories."

Among the rank outsiders wondering if lightning might strike twice are two Kent-based players. After coming through a demanding qualifying process just to reach the main field, Francis McGuirk and Andy Smith will be living the dream and will receive plenty of vocal backing from the galleries.

Smith's story is especially compelling. The Maidstone golfer had virtually quit the sport following illness last year but was persuaded to enter qualifying.

With almost no practice under his belt and using a set of borrowed clubs, he incredibly won the tournament. It ensures he will line up alongside the likes of Rory McIlroy next week as an equal, which is all part of The Open's enduring appeal.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

CENTRE STAGE: Royal St George's hosts The Open, watched by millions around the world

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13 Previous Opens at Royal St George's

8 Years since The Open last visited the county

4 ROUNDS

1 Champion

CONTENDERS: World number one Luke Donald (centre) is one of a host of British players well fancied to win the title, along with Rory McIlroy (right), while the in-form Sergio Garcia (left) could figure

McIlroy and Co lead the charge for British success at Sandwich

By David Pritchard
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ATTEMPTING to pick a winner at The Open can be as fruitless as the Grand National with so many world-class players involved, but the chances of a first British winner in more than a decade look a good bet.

Scotland's Paul Lawrie was the last home player to get his name on the Claret Jug when he won a play-off at Carnoustie in 1999.

Since then the title has headed overseas, with Irishman Padraig Harrington's back-to-back wins in 2007 and 2008 the closest fans have come to cheering on one of their own.

The world rankings now provide tangible hope for the home contingent. English golfers hold the top two spots, with Luke Donald leading Lee Westwood, while Ulstermen Rory McIlroy and Graeme McDowell are also in the top 10.

The quartet are all bona fide contenders. Donald and Westwood may not get a better chance to convert their superb consistency into a maiden victory in one of golf's four majors.

No one will have more confidence than McIlroy, who brilliantly triumphed at the US Open last month, but he will have the added handicap of dealing with the glare of the spotlight as the sport's newest superstar.

■ THE world-class field at Sandwich next week will be without Tiger Woods, who has withdrawn due to injuries. The American's participation had been in doubt due to knee and Achilles problems aggravated in May. He has not played competitively since and despite almost two months recuperating, he is not ready to return. The 35-year-old, a three-time winner of The Open, said: "I'm very disappointed and want to express my regrets to the British Open fans."

McDowell, winner at last year's US Open, also knows what it takes to finish on top. Behind those four lurk Paul Casey, Ian Poulter and Justin Rose, who may welcome the spotlight being shone elsewhere.

Golf in continental Europe is also in rude health. Germany's Martin Kaymer is the world number three, while Italy's rising star Matteo Manassero will be one to watch. Out of nowhere Sergio Garcia has suddenly found some form, finishing seventh at the US Open, and the rejuvenated Spaniard could be the dark horse.

American golf has been on the end of a battering for the last 18 months and the prospect of turning it round at Royal St George's has not been helped with Tiger Woods' withdrawal.

It would be wrong to dismiss them, though, and there are several players more than capable of challenging. Phil Mickelson has a poor Open record, but the likes of Nick Watney, a winner last weekend, and Steve Stricker could be better bets.

TOP THREE PLACES TO WATCH THE EXCITEMENT UNFOLD NEXT WEEK...

Pictures: ADY KERRY

THE biggest change to the course from 2003 has seen the fourth hole changed from an easy par five to a par four which will test the best.

Anyone attempting to get out of the famous towering bunker will be worth watching, while a seat around the green will give fans a great view of the tricky approach shot.

A REAL cauldron of drama come next weekend, the dunes which surround the par-three's green provide natural grandstands and will be packed.

Those lucky enough to get an elevated spot will be able to watch the tee shots fly into the green, with the bonus of seeing action on the fifth and seventh holes as well.

CHOSEN by Royal St George's' head greenkeeper Graham Royden as his favourite spot on the course, a place around the 15th green offers spectators a terrific vantage point.

The 15th itself is one of the toughest holes on the course, but it is also adjacent to the 13th hole and the tee for the short 16th.

TIMELINE of The Open at Royal St George's

1894 Just seven years after it was formed, Royal St George's became the first Open host outside of Scotland. John Henry Taylor's total of 326 remains the highest winning total in Open history, claiming the first of his five titles by five shots.

1899 Tough weather conditions in the opening round saw many players simply withdraw. Jersey's Harry Vardon was made of sterner stuff and romped to the third of his record six Opens.

1904 The first three-day Open was a thriller, with a three-way battle for the championship on the final day. Taylor was again in contention, but had to settle for joint second with James Braid, as Jack White won by one shot.

1911 Vardon triumphed again, despite shooting 80 in the fourth round, but needed a play-off to get past Arnaud Massy. Well adrift, the Frenchman conceded on the penultimate hole of their two-round play-off.

1922 Major course changes were made to reduce the reliance on big hitting. American Walter Hagen revelled in the new layout, taking his first Open title by a stroke.

1928 Hagen again came out on top, finishing ahead of another golfing great, his compatriot Gene Sarazen, by two strokes for his third Open title in seven years.

1934 Rounds of 67 and 65 helped Henry Cotton take a 10-shot lead into the final round and despite shooting a 79, he cruised to victory by five shots. The Englishman's victory ended eight successive American wins.

1938 Atrocious weather made the final round a battle of attrition, with only a handful of players breaking 80. Reg Whitcombe eventually triumphed, a year after finishing runner-up at Carnoustie.

1949 South African Bobby Locke needed a play-off to edge past Ireland's Harry Bradshaw, finishing 12 shots better off after 36 holes.

1981 Poor transport links and a lack of accommodation kept The Open away for 32 years. When it returned, American Bill Rogers' accuracy reaped dividends, holding off the challenge of Bernhard Langer.

1985 A 16-year wait for a British champion was ended when Sandy Lyle came out on top. The Scot began the final round three shots behind but held his nerve to win by a stroke.

1993 A stunning display from Greg Norman saw the Australian clinch his second Claret Jug. Nick Faldo shot 67 on the final round, but Norman carded an impeccable 64 to win by two.

2003 Another fascinating final round ended up with the most unlikely of winners. Ben Curtis, a 300-1 outsider at the start of the week, profited as others, notably Thomas Bjorn, crumbled over the closing holes.

CRICKET

Mum's the word as county keep quiet on contract news

KENT chief executive Jamie Clifford is staying tight-lipped about discussions with the six players out of contract at the end of this year.

Joe Denly, Sam Northeast, Azhar Mahmood, Simon Cook, Robbie Joseph and James Goodman are all in the final year of their contracts at St Lawrence and discussions with the six players have now begun.

If they haven't done so already, the county are obliged to let each player know whether they intend to offer them a new contract beyond this season. If a contract is not forthcoming, or the player chooses not to sign for Kent, they are allowed the opportunity to speak to other clubs – but only if a county puts in a 21-day notice of approach.

Clifford confirmed that Kent have begun discussions with the players, but wouldn't be drawn on when any decisions would be made public.

"We want to give the players the best chance to work through this period and I've not said anything publicly about that and I don't intend to until the process is complete," he said. "The process is under way and that's all I'm going to say. It's important we respect the player and they have the opportunity to go through the process with the club rather than in the press.

DEAL OR NO DEAL? Sam Northeast

"The future of players and the future shape of the squad is something that everybody is interested in and I don't underestimate that. I also think at the moment, with a key period of our season in the next 10 days, I want the focus to be on cricket rather than players' futures. They have the most exciting period of their season, we are well placed in Twenty20 so let's just focus on that."

FOOTBALL

Wantaway striker's transfer request declined by Dover

ADAM Birchall's immediate future remains in doubt after the striker's request to be transfer-listed was turned down by Dover Athletic chairman Jim Parmenter this week.

The Whites chief also described a written offer for the former Arsenal and Barnet man from Newport County as "an insult to the club and to Adam", leaving fans to guess where the 26-year-old will play his football next season.

For Dover manager Martin Hayes, however, Birchall (pictured) remains central to his plans at Crabble despite the speculation surrounding his prize asset.

"Nothing's changed at the moment," he said. "People around Adam have said it's probably best to put in a transfer request to alert a few clubs, but I would have thought that most Football League clubs know Adam already.

"People around him have been advising him, but I don't think he wants to waste his time in the Conference. He's with us and he's training hard. I don't see him going anywhere until the season kicks off; maybe people will look at him in the next transfer window."

In an interview with this newspaper last month, Birchall told of his desire to return to the Football League on the back of an incredible season which saw him plunder 45 goals in all competitions.

Newport County finished ninth in Conference Premier last season.

MOTORSPORT

Brno test for in-form Camier

LEON Camier travels to the Czech Republic this weekend sitting fifth in the World Superbike Championship as the series roars into the second-half of the season.

The Ashford rider arrives in Brno in confident mood after two strong performances in Spain last month, where he picked up his third podium of the season for the factory Aprilia team.

Camier, 24, will be looking to improve on his showing at the circuit last season. He retired from race one and then finished eighth in race two on his way to a 12th-placed championship finish.

The first of Sunday's two races starts at 12pm, with the second getting under way at 3.30pm.

Injured rider Jonathan Rea misses out through injury this weekend, with his Castrol Honda seat going to Alex Lowes. Sheppey's Shane Byrne had been mentioned as a replacement, but the 34-year-old felt a return to the series could have jeopardised his hopes of lifting the British Superbike crown.

CRICKET

Beckenham's future as Kent outground hangs on development plans

By Glenn Pearson
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All pictures: ADY KERRY

FOLLOWING nine years of losing money at Beckenham, Kent have submitted plans for a £15 million redevelopment of the Worsley Bridge Road ground in a bid to make it financially viable.

Since taking over as tenants in 2002, the county club have lost money putting on cricket in Beckenham. Now, Kent bosses, together with landlord Leander Sports & Leisure, have put in a planning application to redevelop the ground. If unsuccessful, Kent will end their nine-year stay at the northern end of the county.

Funding for the redevelopment project will come from selling off a piece of land just behind the Crystal Palace training ground for housing, to enable new facilities including an all-weather hockey pitch, multi-use indoor training centre, health and fitness centre, a small conference building and permanent stands to be built.

Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive, said the club have been looking at ways to safeguard the future of Beckenham as an outground since the turn of the year and is hopeful redevelopment would provide the County Ground with a long-term future.

"Unless we do something there, we will have part of our business which is losing us money year on year," he said.

"We can't just sit there and watch Beckenham lose money, especially in the context of the rest of the business, it's just mad. I'm a big fan of Beckenham, so I think we have a responsibility to not just turn our back on it, but to actually sit down with the landlord and see if there is a long-term solution.

"It's going to take a lot of hard work, but I would rather do that than just give up on it because I think there is a lot of potential there. Beckenham crowds are good and you've seen with Adam Ball and Adam Riley, these guys are being developed in that part of the county, if we just walk away from there we lose all of that.

"I almost feel we're giving up to Surrey. We've had a foothold in the M25 and we have to try find a way to make it work."

Clifford was quick to point out that Kent are the tenants and not the developer at Beckenham, which means there would be "no financial downside" for the club. He also insists that whether Kent stay or choose to end their association with Beckenham, it would have no bearing on a potential return to either Maidstone or Folkestone in the future.

FUTURE: Plans are in to redevelop Beckenham (top) and Kent have not been contacted by Sri Lanka about coach Paul Farbrace

"I still entertain the idea of playing cricket around the county regardless of whether Beckenham gets planning permission or we move away," he said.

"I've said to Folkestone and The Mote that should facilities meet the standards required for county cricket we would look very closely at taking county cricket there."

Elsewhere, Kent have not been contacted by Sri Lanka about the possibility of director of cricket, Paul Farbrace, returning to the international side as head coach.

Reports have suggested the Kent coach is one of three in line to take over the national side, but at present, it remains speculation.

Clifford said: "I've not heard anything from Sri Lanka at all. At the moment it's merely speculation, if it develops beyond that we will deal with it."

GILLINGHAM

Brown open to negotiation if Gills match his ambition

By David Pritchard
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JASON Brown is willing to take a pay cut and drop from the Premier League to League Two if Gillingham are able to match his ambition for success.

The goalkeeper is a free agent this summer after a five-year stay at Blackburn Rovers. There have been several approaches during the close season, but nothing which has been sufficiently inspiring for the 29-year-old to explore.

Brown, who played 137 games for the Gills, has been inundated with fans leaving messages on his Twitter site urging him to come back to Priestfield. It has been more in hope than expectation, with the Wales international's wage demands assumed to be well out of Gillingham's reach, but it may not be the case.

After spending most of the past five seasons on the bench, the offer of regular football is a big incentive for Brown, who is open to the idea of a return.

OPEN TO OFFERS: Jason Brown is happy to talk with Gillingham

"I want to be at a club that has ambition," he said. "That's got to come from the top all the way down, you need the tools in terms of management staff, facilities, everything. I'm not going to dismiss it but if Hessy or any other League Two club was to get in contact and show big ambition I would probably look to jump on board.

"I'm a realist and the way the economy is I'm going to have to take a pay cut. The whole point of my leaving Blackburn is I want to play first-team football and I want to achieve things in my career."

Gillingham signed Ross Flitney last week but there is room in the squad for another goalkeeper following the release of Alan Julian and Lance Cronin in May. Brown does have competition, with Jake Cole, released by Barnet, playing for the Gills in a friendly at Ashford United this week.

Brown has remained fond of his former club, contacting them himself in January to propose a loan move for the second half of last season. It came to nothing, but Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler has made contact with the player's agent in the last fortnight to enquire about the possibility of a move.

Brown said: "The ball is firmly in their court and an offer has to come from the club. We all know if things really want to get done from a club you put an offer in and go from there."

GILLINGHAM

Picture: ADY KERRY

FRESH BLOOD: Gillingham's seven summer signings (left to right) Chris Whelpdale, Charlie Lee, Lewis Montrose, Andy Hessenthaler, Ross Flitney, Danny Kedwell, Matt Fish and Andy Frampton

Hessenthaler cautious over fresh striker search

A MOVE for one more striker could be on the cards after Gillingham signed front man Danny Kedwell as one of seven signings last week.

The Gills brought in their top target to boost their options up front, but it's unclear whether a partner for Kedwell will be signed before the start of the season.

While the signing has been welcomed, there remains a concern the Gills are light in attack as they look to adapt following the loss of Cody McDonald and Adebayo Akinfenwa.

Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler admitted he was keen to bring in another striker, but is putting his faith in the squad's existing forwards for now.

He said: "People say about the striker situation. We've got Danny, who was one we identified earlier on in the season. We've got Dennis Oli, who's looking very bright, and we've got young Stefan [Payne], who has show fantastic attitude and been back two weeks before the rest.

"That's three strikers, it may be that we need to get one more in now. Every manager would love to carry four, if that could happen fantastic, whether we do that in pre-season, who knows."

Kedwell is delighted to get a move to the club he has supported since childhood. Although the 27-year-old has spent his entire career in non-league, he is confident of making an impact.

He said: "I've just got to go out and do what I've been brought here to do. Every year I've stepped up and proved people wrong, which I love doing. I'm ready to do it again, I always seem to do it so why not this year?

"Every striker would say you're happy with 20 goals plus, that's my target."

FOOTBALL

GLORY DAYS: Tommy Sampson (right) lifts the FA Vase as Deal Town manager at Wembley in 2000

Wembley still holds dear memories for Kent football legend

WHILE illness might have taken Tommy Sampson out of football, it certainly didn't take football out of the man.

The former Sheppey United, Herne Bay, Dartford and Deal Town manager is recovering from a stroke in December 2007 that forced him to retire from the game, although the 57-year-old still harbours an ambition to return to Kent League football one day.

While admitting there have been some pretty dark days during his recovery, Sampson, who led Deal to FA Vase glory at Wembley in 2000, keeps a keen eye on the goings on at clubs in the county.

He still speaks with Ramsgate boss Jim Ward, Margate manager Chris Kinnear and Simon Halsey at Herne Bay, and offered words of guidance in a letter he wrote to Ray Turner - a former player under Sampson at Herne Bay - after he took over from Justin Luchford at Faversham Town last season.

Sampson hasn't lost any of the charm or self-confidence (dare I say arrogance?) that made him one of Kent football's most colourful characters. He was a good manager and he knew it, and still knows it. He didn't have a problem about being different, in fact he craved the attention that came with being a successful Kent League manager.

"I started in the Kent League when all the directors turned up in jeans and old donkey jackets and the other manager would turn up in his scruffy work clothes," he said.

"I would turn up in a suit with a briefcase and people would take the mickey out of me, but I wanted to be different. That separated me from the rest.

"I have met so many people over the years. I miss it so much, I get invited to quite a lot of things but I don't go because it upsets me because I can't wander round the bar and take the mickey out of people."

Sampson puts much of his success as a manager down to a short spell in charge of Sheppey United. Once a Kent League force, Sheppey are now languishing in the Kent County League following years spent in the wilderness, but back in 1993 Sampson led the Islanders on a 28-game unbeaten run that put United and their manager in the headlines.

It landed him the job at Herne Bay where he went on to win the Kent League and a number of cups before arguably his most important move - to Deal in 1998. In his second season in charge, he led Town to the FA Vase final at the old Wembley where Deal beat Chippenham Town 1-0. It's a day Sampson will never forget, indeed only last month the entire squad visited him at his home in Maidstone to celebrate the 11th anniversary of that famous day under the Twin Towers.

"The question I get asked the most is what was Wembley like? And I say Wembley was great, but the semi-final was the day," he said.

"The day we won and got to Wembley was the best; Wembley was the icing on the cake. We had 4,000 crammed into Deal's ground and when the final whistle went the whole place went mad.

"People have said to me that Wembley can't be taken away from me, but it doesn't help me with my illness because my ambition was always to be the first manager to win at the old Wembley and the new Wembley."

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